



The

# Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by  
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten  
1966

Volume 44

September 2008 Number 9

## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting  
will be **Monday, September 1, 2008**  
at **6:45 P.M.**

This meeting will be held at  
Liberty Hall

Arizona State Veteran Home  
4141 North 3rd Street  
(See map on page 2)

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks thoughtfully provided by

**Jennifer Schmitt and  
Kimberly Levingston**

Beverage by

**Barbara Parnell**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

## OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be  
Sunday, September 28th following the  
noon show planning meeting at the  
home of Barbara and Harry Parnell

## GROWER ON CALL

Bob MacLeod (623) 935-4059

## September Program

**REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM**

### **HOW TO GROW ORCHIDS AND SAVE ENERGY AT THE SAME TIME**

#### **a PowerPoint Presentation**

**Dennis Olivas** was born and reared on the island of Kauai. He was a member of the Future Farmers of America, and it was through his association with that "subversive" organization that his orchid addiction started. In 1980, he left the garden island and arrived on the mainland. He vowed never to touch the "evil weed" again. It is unclear how many years he remained "clean", but it is known that when he spotted a *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* at Rod McLellan's Acres of Orchids in South San Francisco, Dennis's addiction returned with a vengeance. From that point, his whole life became one downward spiral. First, he filled his home with more than 6000 plants. Then he leased greenhouse space for his ever-burgeoning orchid collection. Dissemination of orchids and orchid information became his career. He has been traced to every orchid society in the Greater Bay Area and has held many of those societies' highest positions. His plant distribution point is located somewhere in the Half Moon Bay area. (Due to secret government files, the exact location of his collection may not be revealed for the foreseeable future.)

Dennis is always easy to spot in a crowd. Just listen for laughter and a pony-tailed chap wearing a Hawaiian shirt. (You can take the man out of the islands, but you can't take the islands out of the man.) Beware: his addiction is contagious!

Dennis Olivas

Editor's Notes: **Dennis will be bringing plants for our silent auction!**  
For benefit of newer members, Dennis last spoke to OSA in June, 2006.  
Welcome back, Dennis!

### *IN THIS ISSUE*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK	Julie Rathbun	Page 2
COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT	Wilella Stimmell	Page 4
MAY EXPEDITION TO YAVITA -MAROA ROAD	Gustavo Romero	Page 5
SHOW FLYER	Fred Stimmell	Page 11



From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

It was a rare and wonderful treat for OSA that Chris Gubler took time out of his busy life at Gubler Orchids and spoke to us at our August 4th meeting. And it was a special treat for me to host Chris during his brief stay in Phoenix. Chris's PowerPoint presentation was both entertaining and informative. He talked to us about the problems experienced by some orchid growers due to rising gas prices and how he's successfully adapting to the changing orchid market.

“Most of our members never knew the procedure involved in how a plant that they purchase in a local store, found its way to a shelf in the store. But thanks to Chris, those of us who attended our August meeting now have more information and appreciation for the steps involved in the placement of a plant in a store.” In fact, the audience was so fascinated by Chris's remarks that they asked many questions, and Chris answered them. He had intended to show photos of the recent World Orchid Conference, but there was no time left for him to show them. He promised to burn the photos onto a CD, and we will show it at a future meeting.

Chris brought 12 robust, multi-spiked oncidium intergenerics for our silent auction. Some of the plants that he brought for use during his presentation were placed on the raffle table. Chris suggested that we take the remaining plants to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse. By the time you receive this newsletter, the plants (and many other items) will have been delivered to the NAVAHCS.

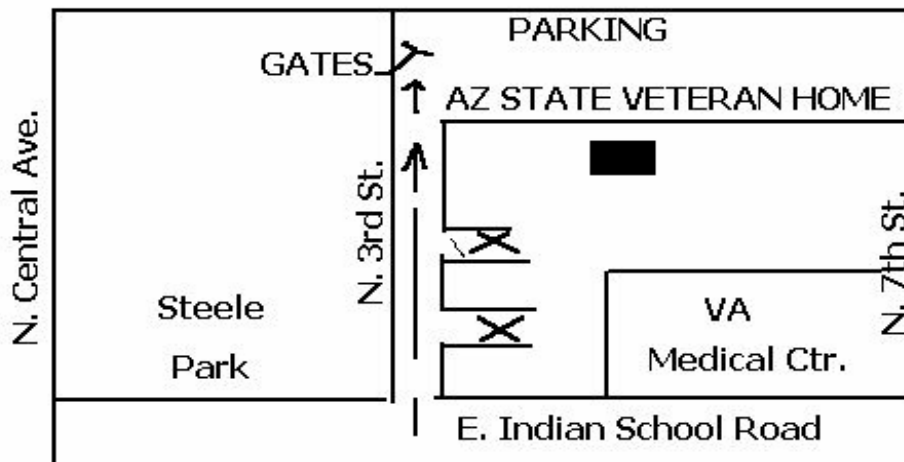
Chris's opening remarks drew applause from the audience. He said that we are the only society he will speak to, and he also said that as far as he's concerned, we are the best society in the country because we have our priorities straight (community service).

We were especially pleased to see Jennifer Schmitt and Diana Sibley at our August meeting. They had not attended meetings for several months.

Our September 1 (Labor Day) meeting will be held in Liberty Hall at the Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 N. 3rd St. For benefit of newer members who have never been to the veteran home, when Encanto Park Clubhouse is closed for a holiday or an election, we hold our meetings at the veteran home. For your convenience, a map is included in this newsletter.

See you on September 1st

Julie



**LAST SHOW PLANNING MEETING**  
**BEFORE OUR NOV. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**ORCHID SHOW**

The final show planning meeting will be held on September 28th at 12 noon at Barbara's house. We would definitely love to see a few members join us as the time is getting short to put the finishing touches on the November Show. The show planning meeting will be followed by our Board of Directors meeting at 1 pm and all are welcome. Remember that this is YOUR show, too!

**In Remembrance**

**Marian E. Lindsten**, age 94 of Glendale, died August 2, 2008. Marian was a longtime Glendale resident and active in the Glendale Women's Club, Glendale Garden Club and participated in raising birds and orchids with her husband Clarence, who preceded her in death. She was also very active in Glendale High and Glendale Elementary School functions. Marian is survived by her daughter, Marilyn Casiano; son, Warren, and 5 nieces and nephews. Services were held on Thursday, August 7th with interment at Resthaven Park Cemetery.

*Editors Note: Marian's husband, Clarence, was the founding editor of The Arizona Orchidist newsletter.*

**August Raffle Donors**

Mary Alice Baumberger, Chris Gubler,  
 Bob MacLeod, OSA, and Wilella Stimmell

THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Repotting Tip**

When repotting an orchid from sphagnum moss to another medium mix the new medium 50/50 with moss. The orchid will adapt much more successfully. Then, at the next repotting move fully to the new medium.

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the  
 Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
 Direct Inquiries to our website at:

**www.orchidsocietyaz.org**

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

**Board of Directors for 2008**

- |                              |                                  |                                       |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>             |                                  | (602) 843-0223                        |
|                              | Julie Rathbun                    | jandfent@aol.com                      |
| <b>First Vice President</b>  |                                  | (480) 722-9328                        |
|                              | Aaron Hicks                      | ahicks51@cox.net                      |
|                              | In House Program Chairman        |                                       |
| <b>Second Vice President</b> |                                  | (480) 785-2251                        |
|                              | Joe Bacik                        | bacikj@cox.net                        |
|                              | Outside Speaker Program Chairman |                                       |
| <b>Secretary</b>             |                                  | (480) 948-0714                        |
|                              | Barbara Parnell                  | birdie552002@yahoo.com                |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             |                                  | (480) 947-8479                        |
|                              | Wilella Stimmell                 | wilellas@worldnet.att.net             |
| <b>Librarian</b>             |                                  | (602) 803-6889                        |
|                              | Lou Ann Remeikis                 | remeikis@andiamo-tel.com              |
| <b>Editor</b>                |                                  | (505) 898-0975                        |
|                              | Keith Mead                       | kjkm@comcast.net                      |
| <b>Trustees</b>              | Frank Bopp                       | (623) 937-0019<br>fgbopp@cox.net      |
|                              | Mary Gannon                      | (623) 878-4173<br>mggaz@cox.net       |
|                              | Bob MacLeod                      | (623) 935-4059                        |
|                              | Seelye Smith                     | (602) 404-1013<br>sss3301@hotmail.com |

The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization dedicated to community service and the study of orchids. It is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, The Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On **September 6, at 11:00 AM**, OSA's program team will present an Orchids 101 program for the residents of **BROOKDALE PLACE OF PARADISE VALLEY**, an independent-living retirement community, located at 13240 N. Tatum Blvd., Phoenix. We need display plants and a blooming plant for use as a door prize. **If anyone has a phal in bloom and would like to donate it for a door prize, please bring the plant to our September 1 meeting or contact me to arrange for me to pick up the plant. Giving doesn't get any easier than this!** We already know that the residents are interested in starting a garden club, but we plan to nudge them to try to grow orchids.

(When we were first contacted about presenting a program, the name of the group wasn't familiar, but the address was. So I checked the website of Brookdale Place. I recognized the dining room from the picture on the website! For those of you who might not know, we have a record of ALL community service programs that we have presented since **1995**. In the log for 1995, I found a listing for Desert Mountain Nursing Center. The address for the Nursing Center is very close (13232) to the street number for Brookdale Place. The zip code is the same for both. If the Nursing Center is still in existence, it might be a part of a larger complex of assisted living facilities. We'll find out on September 6!)

A report on our annual trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care greenhouse will be included in our October newsletter.

The **ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME** has a "new" Recreation Therapy Department Manager. **LESLIE GOIN** was the Manager when we first started donating soda pop and snacks to ASVH. (It's hard to believe that we've been donating soda pop and snacks on a **monthly basis** for at least **12 years**.) A few of you might remember that after Leslie was moved to a different department to fill a vacancy at ASVH, Diane McGuire took over for Leslie. The residents adored both Leslie and Diane, and when they left their positions in Rec Therapy, there was a tremendous void to fill. (Another manager followed Diane's departure. It's human nature for anyone who has been exposed to the "best of the best" to be unhappy and find fault with anyone who follows in the footsteps of such wonderful, former caregivers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> manager of Recreation Therapy was replaced by Mindy Morales who was well-liked by the residents.) As of August 6, the day that I delivered OSA's monthly donation of soda pop, etc., Leslie received word that she was once again the Recreation Therapy Department Manager. She replaced Mindy Morales who has decided to go back to school and learn to become a dental hygienist. Mindy was also an excellent Manager, and I had an opportunity on August 6 to say farewell to her and tell her what a wonderful job she had done for the residents. She will be greatly missed by the residents and those of us who knew what a fantastic job she did at the veteran home. But I'm **very** happy that Leslie is back as the Manager of the Recreation Therapy Department, and I look forward to working with her.

In Mindy's "Farewell" e-mail, she stated: "I want to thank everyone for your outstanding service to the veterans over the years. I have really enjoyed working with such devoted people. Without your support, we couldn't offer all of the wonderful things we do. I hope that you can continue to serve in the years to come because it means so much to our incredible residents."

**Special thanks to those OSA members who continue to donate funds for the purchase of the soda pop, flavored water, and snacks for ASVH.** As our President, Julie, will testify, my living room is "storage central" for the items for the veteran home.

## The May 2008 Expedition to the Yavita-Maroa Road

I am happy to report that we successfully completed our latest expedition to the Yavita-Maroa road. Our main goal this time was to explore a segment of the "old" road, the one walked by Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland<sup>1</sup>, between Yavita and Pimichín, nowadays an abandoned, barely detectable trail in the forest. I had never been in this section of the road before<sup>2</sup>. We also wanted to sample all the orchids we could find including those in the upper canopy of the tall forest we encountered along this trail.

I followed the usual itinerary to Caracas and flew to Puerto Ayacucho on Sunday, May 11th. Rather than flying to Maroa, this time we decided to take a public transportation boat to Yavita. From there a truck took us to Maroa (the Yavita-Maroa road-trip was included in the boat fare). Two reasons made us take a boat rather than flying: recently the airplanes we usually rented were frequently crashing or disappearing<sup>3</sup>; and secondly, the flights were becoming prohibitively expensive<sup>4</sup>.

Traveling by boat involved many changes in our usual itinerary. Flying usually took us no more than two hours each way; theoretically, traveling by boat would take two to three days in each direction<sup>5</sup>. Travel by river in the upper Orinoco is interrupted by two major sets of rapids: Atures to the north and Maipures or Maypures to the south. A road that bypassed the two sets of rapids existed on what is now Colombian territory in the late 1700s. A second road was constructed between Puerto Ayacucho and Samariapo in the 1920s, this time on the Venezuelan side of the Orinoco, after Venezuela ceded to Colombia all territories west of the Orinoco river<sup>6</sup>. Samariapo, or Sanariapo in old maps, our port of departure, is a small town located just south of the Maypures rapids, some 70 km south of Puerto Ayacucho, accessible via a relatively well-maintained, paved, two-lane road. Two weeks before my arrival, Carlos Gómez had purchased three tickets (including one to account for our excess luggage) to make sure we had "seats" for the May 14 boat trip to Yavita<sup>7</sup>.

I made my usual rounds in town on Monday: getting permits signed and making copies of them and buying miscellaneous supplies. In the meantime, Carlos Gómez, co-author of the project, purchased the bulk of the food we needed for the expedition. Early on Tuesday we went to the office of the transportation office to confirm the departure time from Samariapo. To our chagrin, we were told that we would not depart as planned, but rather on Thursday, May 15th. We were told to be in Samariapo at 6:00 AM: any delays and we would be left behind!

I used the extra day in Puerto Ayacucho to work in the local herbarium where, besides maintaining dry specimens of the local flora, they cultivate orchids, bromeliads, and cacti that get confiscated by the local authorities from plant collectors without the proper permits. Among the many species that they had in cultivation, I found several plants of *Epidendrum purpurascens* H. Focke in flower. I had captured a few, less than ideal photographs of this rare species in the early 1980s, and had never been able to find it again in flower. This time I was able to take some additional photographs.

The next day we left Puerto Ayacucho by 4:30 AM and got to Samariapo in about an hour. As I suspected, the 6:00 AM departure time was "tentative" and we did not leave until a little before 9:00 AM. We traveled up the Orinoco all day, making a few stops along the way, and reached its confluence with the Guaviare and Atabapo rivers by 5:15 PM. We stopped in San Fernando de Atabapo at about 5:30 PM. After a short break, during which we picked up gasoline for our work, we continued up the Atabapo river and finally, long after dark, we docked in Pintado, an Indian village on the eastern shore of the Atabapo, where we spent the night (some in the boat, some in the village). We departed early in the morning. After several stops along the Atabapo river<sup>8</sup>, we reached Santa Cruz at 10:00 AM, where the Venezuelan National Guard carefully searched most of the cargo in the boat<sup>9</sup>. We were told that they were looking for large amounts of currency, gold, drugs, weapons, or ammunition.

We arrived in Yavita around 2:00 PM on Friday, May 16. Naturally, the vehicle that was supposed to transport the passengers to Maroa was not there. We unloaded our cargo and placed it under a high, tin-roof building recently erected close to the river, where there was also a large supply of groceries, two refrigerators, and two washing machines that we were told had to be transported to Maroa.

An old, "decrepit" truck arrived around 4:00 PM, but it refused to take us to Maroa because it was supposed to take a heavy cargo of soft drinks from a large boat docked next to the boat that had brought us to Yavita. A second "decrepit" truck arrived an hour later and the driver again refused to take us to Maroa, because he was supposed to take the groceries and other cargo I mentioned before, but he did agree to take Mrs. Gómez (Carlos's wife) and our cooler with some frozen fish (we were afraid the ice would melt and the fish we had brought would decay). The truck with Mrs. Gómez and our cooler left around 6:00 PM. Afterwards, Carlos and I hung our hammocks and mosquito netting next to our cargo. Later that night we contacted the town major, Fernando Sosa, from whom we had rented a boat in previous expeditions. He had another decrepit truck, and he promised to take us to Maroa early the next morning, as long as he could repair the starter motor and **we** would inflate several flat tires.

By 6:00 AM the next day the starter motor had been repaired and the tires were inflated. I then noticed that the truck did not have a gas tank *per se*, and gasoline was fed to the engine from a plastic outboard motor tank placed on the roof of the cabin. A hose came through the driver's windows, and from there, I am not sure how it reached the carburetor. The engine had to be started by uniting wires in the engine compartment that threw sparks dangerously close to the overflowing carburetor. Then, when we were about half way to Maroa, the right forward base of the platform broke and the platform dropped several inches, blocking the passenger's door. From then on, I had to move in and out of the cabin through the passenger's window because if I had wanted to leave the cabin via the driver's door, the engine would have died and who knows what would have happened if we had tried to start it again. We finally made it to Maroa by 9:00 AM: it took us three days to get there, three hours alone to travel the ca. 32 kilometers from Yavita.

Later on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon, after a morning of intense rain, we explored the savannas and shrubby vegetation around the airport. We found in flower *Epistephium parviflorum* Lindl., *E. subrepens* Hoehne, and *Sobralia granitica* G. A. Romero & Carnevali. We also found plants of two species of *Cleistes* bearing flower buds, one of which we have photographed several times (*C. rosea* Lindl. var. *pallida* Carnevali & I. Ramírez) and the other that so far has refused to show its flowers to us (*C. tenuis* (Rchb.f. ex Griseb.) Schltr.). We also found plants without flowers of *Duckeella pauciflora* Garay, *Epidendrum orquidiflorum* Salzm. ex Lindl., *Eriopsis biloba* Lindl., *Sobralia elisabethae* R.H. Schomb., and *Vanilla grandiflora* Lindl.

Early on Monday I had a unique opportunity to observe pollinators visiting a plant of *Catasetum pileatum* Rchb.f. bearing an inflorescence with three female flowers. Between 7:00 and 9:00 AM seven male euglossine bees (Apidae) came to the flowers, three bees I could identify as *Eulaema cingulata* (Fabricius) and four as *E. meriana* (Olivier), none of which bore pollinaria and therefore could not pollinate the flowers.

Later that morning we walked along the road, beyond the airport and Boca Chico<sup>10</sup> to explore a patch of tall forest and to test the skills of a new member of our team, Pascual, a Curripaco Indian, who we hired to climb trees. From the ground, we could not see any epiphytes on the tall trees we found, and Pascual climbed two or three just to check and found only a few bromeliads. Along the road and on trees in the forest we did observe<sup>11</sup>:

*Acacallis fimbriata* (Rchb.f.) Schltr.;

*Bifrenaria longicornis* Lindl.;

*Bifrenaria venezuelana* C. Schweinf.;

*Brassia bidens* Lindl. (terrestrial);

*Pleurothallis miqueliana* H. Focke (in flower);

*Catasetum ferox* Kraenzlin (one plant with old male flowers);

*Catasetum maroaensis* G. A. Romero & C. Gómez (distinctive because of its thick, dark green leaves);

*Hyleaorchis petiolaris* (Schltr.) Carnevali & G. A. Romero;

*Palmorchis puber* (Cogn.) Garay (the only terrestrial orchid we saw that morning);

*Sigmatostalix amazonica* Schltr.;

*Xerorchis amazonica* Schltr.;

*Vanilla grandiflora* Lindl.

By noon we decided to walk towards Maroa and explore a shrubland close to the airport that we had visited the previous year, with tremendous success (see *The Arizona Orchidist* Volume 44, Number 1, page 7, January 2008), where we found the following species in flower:

*Campylocentrum micranthum* (Lindl.) Rolfe (bearing old fruits, a new report for the checklist);  
*Brassia macrostachya* Lindl.;  
*Epidendrum microphyllum* Lindl.;  
*Liparis nervosa* (Thunb.) Lindl. (the only terrestrial orchid we found in flower);  
*Maxillaria superflua* Rchb.f.;  
*Maxillaria villosa* (Barb. Rodr.) Cogn.;  
*Pleurothallis lanceana* Lodd.;  
*Octomeria gemmula* Carnaveli & I. Ramírez;  
*Octomeria taracuana* Schltr.  
*Sigmatostalix amazonica* Schltr.

In the shrubland and the edge of the caatinga-type forest, we recorded 36 additional species of Orchidaceae. We could easily recognize them (some only to genus) even without flowers. Herbarium material and pickled collections were made of all the species found in flower.

Early on Tuesday, May 20th, we left Maroa by boat for the old town of Pimichín, first going up the Guainía river for a short distance, and then up Caño Pimichín. We planned to travel from old Pimichín to the new road Yavita-Maroa.

We reached the old town of Pimichín by 10:30 AM. We unloaded the boat and hid the outboard engine and the gas tank; we tied the dugout canoe in what we supposed was the old port. Emiro and Carlos Gómez made four backpacks using palm leaves, and with a relatively light load of food and equipment, we left Pimichín. After a few minutes we passed a shrubland that we planned to visit later, and pressed on to reach Corcovado, a point half way along the old road where we were told that our hosts in Maroa, Sandalio Camico and Isabel Silva, have a house and an old farm plot. Along the way, we found a caatinga forest with many orchids in flower:

*Koellensteinia hyacinthoides* Schltr.;  
*Maxillaria villosa* (Barb. Rodr.) Cogn.;  
*Pleurothallis fockei* Lindl. (a new record for the checklist);

In this site we recorded nine additional orchid species without flowers.

Along the trail we encountered many tall trees that appeared to have quite a few epiphytes in their upper branches. Pascual climbed some of them, but found that moving around in the canopy could be dangerous because many branches were rotten or too weak to support his weight. After he climbed a few trees, I decided that whatever orchids he could find were not worth the risk. Instead, we concentrated on finding recently fallen trees. We did locate one where we found, on what were the upper branches of the tree:

*Epidendrum compressum* Griseb.;  
*Epidendrum microphyllum* Lindl.;  
*Maxillaria villosa* (Barb. Rodr.) Cogn.;  
*Pleurothallis grobyi* Lindl.;  
*Pleurothallis picta* Lindl.;  
*Pleurothallis mentosa* Cogn.;  
*Trisetella triglochis* (Rchb.f.) Luer (not in flower, but vegetatively quite distinct).

After crossing two old wooden bridges<sup>11</sup>, we reached Corcovado in the late afternoon. We did locate our hosts' house and farm plot: the house had collapsed and the farm plot was largely invaded by weeds. Close to the second bridge, we established our camp site. Each of us hung a hammock, enclosed it in a mosquito net, and covered it with a waterproof tarp. We had a light dinner and pressed the plants we had collected along the way. By 7:00 PM we could hear thunder in the distance. Rain starting falling soon after and within a half hour we were under one of the most violent electric storms I have ever experienced. All of us got wet, despite the waterproof tarps, but we slept comfortably because we were under tall trees and the temperature did not drop much during the night (it would have dropped quite a bit if we had slept in the open).

We woke up early the next day and after breaking down our camp and having breakfast, we divided our crew in two groups: one would go back to Pimichín with the cooking and lighting equipment, what was left of the food, and the plants we had collected so far; Carlos Gómez, his son Oscar, and I would press on to the interception of the two roads with a light load (enough food for a light lunch, a first aid kit, one set of dry clothes, miscellaneous emergency supplies, and plant collecting and photographic equipment). At first we had a hard time finding the trail, especially after crossing the path of a troop of wild pigs (*Tayassu* sp., *Tayassuidae*), which must have been in the area a few hours before (we could still smell them), making a mess everywhere, looking for edible plant parts. However, after some 600 meters from Corcovado, we could easily follow the old path. We reached the Yavita-Maroa road by noon. Using our GPS hand-held unit, we determined Pimichín was only 7.0 km away as the bird flies (we were told later that the actual road was 11 km long). We drank some fresh water from a nearby creek and soon after started walking back to Pimichín. Along the way we found the following species in flower:

*Koellensteinia graminea* (Lindl.) Schltr.;

*Myoxanthus trachyclamys* (Schltr.) Luer;

*Pleurothallis discophylla* Luer & Carnevali (a new report for the checklist);

*Pleurothallis erebatensis* Carnevali & G. A. Romero (second time we have found this species).

We reached the "bana" close to Pimichín by 2:30 PM (the one we had seen the day before) and spent about an hour looking for orchids. We found 15 species, none bearing flowers. However, we did find another new report for the checklist:

*Maxillaria parviflora* (Poepp. & Endl.) Garay.<sup>12</sup>

We went on to Pimichín, bathed, had a snack, washed our clothes, dried our hammocks, netting, and tarps, and rested a bit<sup>13</sup>. We left for Maroa around 4:15 PM and by 5:30 PM had approached the juncture of the Pimichín and the Guainía; soon after we were in Maroa. That evening Carlos and I went to the public transportation office to ask whether we would have service later that week. We got such ambiguous information that we decided right away to fly out of Maroa. Fortunately, an airplane was bringing frozen chicken from Puerto Ayacucho to Maroa on Friday, May 23 and, we immediately paid for that same plane to take us back to Puerto Ayacucho the same day.

On Thursday, May 22nd, we explored the forest along the road beyond Boca Chico. We rode Mr. Valerio Sandalio's truck (the one with a Suzuki cabin and a Toyota truck-bed) to several points along the road where we found sixteen orchid species, including the following ones bearing flowers:

*Macroclinium mirabilis* C. Schweinf.;

*Octomeria erosilabia* C. Schweinf.;

*Paphinia dunstervillei* Dodson & G. A. Romero;

*Peristeria* sp. (similar to *P. ehippium* Rchb.f., but flower of a different color; status so far unknown);

*Pleurothallis grobyi* Lindl.;

*Polyotidium huebneri* (Mansf.) Garay;

*Vanilla grandiflora* Lindl.;

*Vanilla* sp. (first time we photographed flowers of this unknown species);

*Wullchlaegelia calcarata* Benth.



As scheduled, we flew to Puerto Ayacucho Friday, May 23th. I flew to Caracas on Sunday, May 25, and returned to Boston on the 28th.

We do look forward to our next expedition to Caño San Miguel. We plan to approach the "serranía de Cariche", as described in *The Arizona Orchidist* Volume 44, Number 1, page 9, published in January 2008. We will probably fly again to and from Maroa, despite the relatively high cost, because of the time we save and because we can rely on the dates we will be flown in and flown out, therefore allowing us to plan our expeditions with much more certainty.

This trip would not have been possible without the financial support of the Massachusetts Orchid Society and the Orchid Society of Arizona (OSA) or without the logistic support of Venezuela's "Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente".

Gustavo A. Romero-González  
Keeper  
Orchid herbarium of Oakes Ames  
Harvard University Herbaria  
22 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
romero@oeb.harvard.edu

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> This is the only section of the old road that hardly has changed from the time Humboldt and Bonpland visited the area. At that time, the road went from Yavita, then located in the mid-course of the Tuameni or Tuamini, to the east bank of Caño Pimichín, where a small town, also called Pimichín, thrived for many years. Boats would unload their cargo either in Pimichín or Yavita from where the load would be carried to either town, respectively. As it was the case with Humboldt's, boats could also be transported along the road. From Yavita, the cargo (usually merchandise from Brazil) would be moved northward down the Temi and the Atabapo to the Orinoco; in the opposite direction, it would go down the Pimichín to the Guainía, and from there to Maroa or down the Río Negro (the cargo was usually rubber or other rubber-like products and piassaba fiber). Sometime in the early 1800s, Yavita was moved to the southern margin of the Temi river, below its confluence with the Tuameni. A new road was opened from the new Yavita to where it intercepted the old one, from where it continued to Pimichín. This section of the road was bypassed in 1978 when a new one was opened directly from the new Yavita to Maroa; Pimichín was abandoned at that point. We found only one piece of evidence to prove that it was an important point of commerce: an old, rusty, Volkswagen beetle within 150 m of Caño Pimichín, the metal in remarkably good shape, but being slowly devoured by the forest.

<sup>2</sup> The two senior members of the expedition, Carlos Gómez and Emiro Yuriyuri, had traveled this section of the road many times before the new one was opened in 1978: Carlos since 1962, Emiro probably earlier.

<sup>3</sup> One of the planes we flew on in the past few years crashed in August 2006, and the one we were on from Maroa to Puerto Ayacucho in July 2007, after our expedition to the San Miguel river, took off with five passengers this past December 24th for a routine 45 minute-flight and after not appearing at its destination it was declared lost. Even after intense air and ground searches conducted over several months, it so far has not been located.

<sup>4</sup> Currently *ca.* US\$3,250 to take us to Maroa and to bring us back to Puerto Ayacucho at a pre-determined date *versus* US\$300 for the theoretical equivalent in the public transportation boat.

<sup>5</sup> I had traveled from Samariapo to Yavita by boat at least twice before.

<sup>6</sup> An early description of this road can be found in Holt, E. G., 1931, In Humboldt's wake. *The National Geographic Magazine* 60, 5: 620--644.

<sup>7</sup> He also purchased a fourth ticket for his wife, Mrs. Carmen Adelina Silva de Gómez, who planned to come to Maroa with us to visit her sister, Mrs. Isabel Silva de Camico. While in Maroa, we stayed in Mrs. Isabel Silva's house.

<sup>8</sup> At one of these stops, while waiting on the bow of the boat, I found a small shrub in flower and took a few photographs and collected a herbarium specimen. It turned out to be *Blepharandra angustifolia* (H. B. K.) W. R. Anderson (Malpigiaceae). According to Bill Anderson, who keeps a comprehensive photograph database of this family, my images are the first ever taken of this species.

<sup>9</sup> Miraculously, after showing our permits and miscellaneous documentation, they did not search our cargo. We of course did not have anything to hide, but because our cargo had been so carefully packed, it would have been difficult to store it in the same space after the kind of search they were conducting.

<sup>10</sup> The first major creek one finds when traveling from Maroa to Yavita. It is named after a fish, *Prochilodus* sp. (Prochilodontidae), normally caught in the course of most rivers, but particularly when it migrates to the headwaters of small creeks. According to the natives, at that point the fish "dance" (in Spanish, "bailan"), which I interpret as particular movements males and females individuals make when the eggs are released and fertilized.

<sup>11</sup> Here I report species in the genera of Maxillariinae and Pleurothallidinae *sensu* Dressler (1981). Under the current circumscription, some will simply get transferred to other genera, e.g., *Pleurothallis fockei* Lindl. to *Acianthera fockei* (Lindl.) Pridgeon & M. W. Chase; while others may be assigned to species with different specific epithets. *Pleurothallis mentosa* Cogn., for instance, is currently [Pabstiella yauaperyensis \(Barb.Rodr.\) F.Barros](#) (2002) or [Specklinia yauaperyensis \(Barb.Rodr.\) Luer](#) (2004); and *Maxillaria conferta* (Griseb.) C. Schweinf. ex León is now referred to *Camaridium micranthum* M. A. Blanco.

<sup>12</sup> Between Pimichín and the Yavita-Maroa road, we crossed ten wooden bridges, most of them in remarkably good condition despite their age (they pre-date the opening of the new road in 1978), possibly because they were made from the reddish, resinous wood of "Yebaro" (*Eperua purpurea* Benth., Fabaceae), the trunks of which can be more than one meter in diameter.

<sup>13</sup> We had our share of mosquitoes and blackflies while out in the field, although not even close to what we experienced during travels along the San Miguel and Casiquiare last year. We also caught a few kissing bugs in our camp site in Corcovado (kissing or assassin bugs, the transmitter of Chagas disease: see *The Arizona Orchidist* Volume 42 November 2005). In Corcovado, in the early morning, we heard the hardly perceptible call of a Curassow (Cracidae, *Crax* sp.), and later, walking along the trail, we heard the call of the Giant Cowbird (Icteridae, *Scaphidua oryzivora* Gmelin) and the typical call of the Screaming Piha (Cotingidae, *Lipaugus vociferans* Wied). Also, along the trail we startled at least two Tinamous (species of one or two genera of Tinamidae, chicken-like, tail-less birds that, despite intense hunting pressure, have survived because of their peculiar breeding strategy ("Males [are] polygynous [mate with several females] and females [are] polyandrous [mate with several males]... and ... the males incubate the eggs and rear the chicks without any help from the female" (Restall, R., C. Rodner, and M. Lentino, 2006, *Birds of Northern South America I--II*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut; quote from volume I, page 27).



# ORCHID SOCIETY OF ARIZONA

PRESENTS

## ORCHIDS FOR ALL SEASONS



Annual Orchid Show and Sale

November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Encanto Park Clubhouse  
2605 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ



**Free Admission**

Sat. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sun. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Orchids, Supplies, Cultural information, Refreshments, Gifts,  
Entertainment, Raffles

For more information, contact Barbara Pamell, Show Chair (480) 948-0714 or visit our website at  
[www.orchidsociety.org](http://www.orchidsociety.org)



# OSA September 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1 OSA Meeting 6:45 PM</i> <i>Labor Day</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Lou Ann Remeikis</i>	 <i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Joe Bacik</i> <i>Dennis Olivas</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Jeanette Socaciu</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>  <i>Marleny Castillo</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> <i>Board Meeting</i> <i>Show Meeting</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

September 2008 Newsletter