

The Orchid Conservation Alliance
564 Arden Drive
Encinitas, CA 92024



March 9, 2014

Dear Member -

This will be a relatively short newsletter, although it has some fairly important items.

We raised \$20,000 more for Reserva Serra Bonita, Bahia, Brazil:

Well, many of you stepped up to the plate and made it happen. During November, December, and January the checks came in and when it was all over, you donated \$22,000. Last week I sent \$20,000 to the RainForest Trust for transmittal to Reserva Serra Bonita. The RainForest Trust wrote, in part:

Thank you for this very generous donation of **\$20,000.00** to **Rainforest Trust** received on **March 3, 2014** from **The Orchid Conservation Alliance** via electronic fund transfer. This gift will be designated to our Serra Bonita expansion project in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. I'm pleased to confirm that your support to this project will be matched 1:1 thanks to a donor pledge, so the impact of this donation will be doubled!

This means that Reserva Serra Bonita will be able to add another 100 acres, in addition to the 150 acres from our earlier donation, to its holdings. I am reserving the additional \$2000 until after I visit Reserva Serra Bonita during the upcoming Orchids in the Wild trip. We can always donate it for more land but it may be that Vitor Becker, the prime mover behind Reserva Serra Bonita, will have some particular idea about what to do with these funds.

Orchids in the Wild trip to Brazil:

We are about to depart for Brazil. Next Friday eight of us will meet in Miami for an overnight, flight to Salvador, Bahia. From there it is on to Ilheus, Reserva Serra Bonita, and two weeks in Brazil. The next newsletter will have a report on the trip. Everyone, not just the particular travelers, should know that when I or any other OCA director goes on one of these trips, that the trip fee does not pay for our trip. We pay our own way. The only exception to this is that when a director, as in this case OCA's Brazilian director Rosario Braga, acts as the travel agent for the trip, making all the hotel, bus, and other arrangements, then that director's expenses are paid for by the travelers. It seems only fair inasmuch as the work of making all those arrangements is not trivial. We get the benefit of somebody who actually knows about orchids and we don't pay the profit of some commercial travel agency. I am paying my own travel on this trip as I have done for all the OCA trips in which I have participated. There is no reason the travelers should buy me a trip to Brazil, which I will enjoy at least as much as they do.

The World Orchid Conference, Madagascar, and South Africa:

The opening of the 21st World Orchid Conference (WOC) will be at 7PM on September 9th, 2014. The show itself will be from 10 - 14 of September. There will be a conference on many different aspects of orchids, from breeding to conservation running concurrently with the show. I will be giving a talk in the conservation section, but the talks have not yet been scheduled. The conference organizers have set up a post-show orchid tour from Sept 15th to 19th. There are also some longer tours, covering more of South Africa's attractions. To see the official conference web site, see <http://www.woc21.org>.

What makes sense to me is based on the idea that there are three things I want to do (Yes, it's all about ME ME ME!); visit Madagascar, attend the WOC, and take part in the post-WOC orchid tours. Thus, the OCA specific part that I am arranging is the Madagascar tour. The WOC has arranged some deals with hotels in Johannesburg to lodge people during the show, and they have set up the post-conference orchid tours. I will reserve one of the six-seater buses for OCA associated people for the post-WOC orchid tour. This can be expanded to ten if interest goes beyond six people; see Tours at <http://www.woc21.org>. This will bring together OCA people for an orchid tour. There is no advantage to OCA people for me to try to arrange lodging and registration at the WOC. If you are going, you should do this on your own. **And so to the Madagascar tour..**

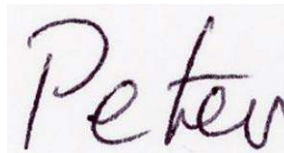
I was referred to the French travel agency "Comptoir de Madagascar - Atmospheres du Monde" by a friend here in southern California who has connections to the French Orchid Society. I am told they have used this agency for 15 trips to Madagascar. I have set up the trip to occur before the WOC and done so in two ways. You can use it as a way to get to Johannesburg for the WOC or you can just take the tour as a trip to Madagascar. The itinerary of the trip is detailed in the attachment to the email that brings you this newsletter and is also posted on the OCA website.

Inasmuch as the agency is French, they have set up one itinerary that will put us on a plane in Paris on August 31 and deliver us to Antananarivo, Madagascar, on Sept 1. We will tour Madagascar according to the schedule described until the early morning of Sept 9, when we will board a plane for Johannesburg. The cost of this option, based on ten participants, is Euro3315 per person based on double occupancy; single occupancy incurs an additional Euro160. Those of us who choose this option will need to find our own way to Paris and our own way home from South Africa. Although I am sure the agency can arrange that as well, it is not part of the cost that I have just noted. The second itinerary is for those who have no desire to go to the WOC. This option has the same itinerary in Madagascar, but expects that you will make your own way to Madagascar and home again. The price of this option, which includes only the flight from Tamatave to Antananarivo, is Euro1987 per person for double occupancy with a Euro160 supplement for single occupancy, again based on ten participants. The price is slightly higher if 4 - 9 people go. The tour will not operate with fewer than four persons or more than ten. Again, if you desire the agency's help with flights to Antananarivo and back to your home city, I am sure they can help. Please review the detailed offering as posted on the OCA website and as attached to this email for more details. Note that guides will speak English. Well, I hope this flies. Madagascar, South Africa, Orchids, not to mention a few lemurs. Sounds great to me!

We need to know the number of persons by the beginning of May with a reservation fee of 35% by May 1. The balance must be paid by June 31. Funds should be paid to the OCA by check or wire transfer. Paypal takes 3% of the payment, which is too much.

Feel free as usual to call me or email me, as well as to call or email the travel agency. However, I will be in Brazil until April 2 so my responses may be a little slow until then.

Peter Tobias, Président de l'OCA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

PS - Sorry for no pictures, but no more space!