



OCA News: July 7, 2018

Orchids in the Wild trip to Colombia

Greetings from El Presidente –

I'm not usually one to honk my own horn, so please forgive me if I note that I received a very nice present at the recent Orchid Digest Speaker's Day. I was peacefully selling t-shirts and books when Harold Koopowitz took the podium and asked the audience for their attention. He started talking about the Digest's Award for Recognition of Meritorious Service to the Orchid World. He then said something about conservation and I thought he must have Lou Jost in mind. You know Lou as the protagonist of Fundación Ecominga in Ecuador who has developed many orchid reserves in that orchid rich country and for which the OCA has raised a lot of money. But then Harold asked me to the podium and presented me with the medal shown here. Frankly, I was quite surprised, but very happily so. I hope you will realize that none of what I have tried to accomplish over the last decade or so would have come to pass without your very significant help. So, thank you, and consider that your name is on this medal too. By the way, there was no **CASH** associated with the award.



I want to announce our next **Orchids in the Wild trip to Colombia**. The trip runs from arrival in Pereira on November 3, 2018, and ends with departures from Cali on November 18. The trip is led by OCA's Director Steve Beckendorf and by Colombia's Sebastian Vieira. Steve Beckendorf is one of the OCA's better kept secrets. He has traveled a lot in Colombia in search of several lost species of *Odontoglossum*. In short, they are no longer lost! Sebastian Vieira is a Colombian biologist with a special interest in Colombia's microorchids. He has a lot of experience finding orchid rich locations in Colombia. He and several friends are now developing an orchid reserve, La Selva de Ventanas, which will be visited on the trip. There are only 14 spaces on this trip, so don't delay sending in your deposit if this trip is a possibility for you. The full itinerary is attached to this email and will be posted very soon on our website.

One more thing, about membership. We have been less than diligent about reminding people to renew their membership in the OCA. One of the benefits to membership is early notice of trips. This email is that early notice, your reward for self-diligence and being up to date on your membership. In one week the trip will be advertised to the rest of our email list, the membership slackers, and posted on Facebook and the website. So, if you don't want to be shut out of this trip or relegated to the waiting list, put in your deposit now. Deposits are fully refundable until September 1. Thus, even if your plans are unsettled, you can reserve a spot now and have until September 1 to get your life in order. How's that for a sweet deal?

Best regards,

Peter Tobias, President
The Orchid Conservation Alliance

www.orchidconservationalliance.org

A 501(c)3 Organization