

Orchid Conservation Alliance

2019 Annual Report

2019 was an incredibly successful year. Our total revenue for the year was \$190,998, with our primary revenue streams coming from donations and memberships and our Orchids in the Wild Trip profits, along with other fund raising activities. Our expenses for 2019 (\$112,286) are summarized in the pie chart below. We can proudly state that our major expense is the support of the reserves, followed by expenses related to advertising and promotion, and finally, office expenses. All directors of the OCA serve pro bono..



ORCHID CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

In early August Steve Beckendorf and Peter Tobias attended the VI Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids in Medellin, Colombia. Some of the meeting was devoted to orchid pollination by bees, with remarkable videos showing bees landing on orchids and departing with pollen. After the meeting Tobias went to visit the Reserva Los Magnolios maintained by the Fundación Salvamontes several hours by bus north of Medellin. In 2017 and 2018 the OCA donated a total of \$48,500 to assist with the establishment of the Salvamontes reserves. Tobias says that he came away much impressed by the work that



VI Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids



Salvamontes is doing and also very impressed by the orchid richness of the areas currently under protection. Tobias saw a tree near where Salvamontes wants to establish a research station that had two different clones of *Dracula chimaera* blooming simultaneously. “An amazing sight” said Tobias.

This past year the OCA received \$21,000 upon the dissolution of the International Pleurothallid Alliance (IPA). Given that Fundación Salvamontes wants to expand its holdings and given that much of their orchid richness is pleurothallid orchids, OCA’s directors decided to commit the IPA donation to expansion of Fundación Salvamontes’ reserves. Fundación Salvamontes is currently applying for funding from the Rainforest Trust. If that process is successful, OCA will donate the money through Rainforest Trust’s 1:1 matching program to fund Fundación Salvamontes’ expansion by \$42,000.

In other news, OCA’s directors donated \$33,950 directly to Fundación Ecominga in Ecuador. OCA has supported Fundación Ecominga and its reserves several times since OCA’s inception in 2005. Some of these funds were for land acquisitions in which Rainforest Trust did not participate and some were specified by the donor for purposes other than land acquisition, such as legal fees and guard salaries.

In 2019 we also committed \$68,000 to expansion of Fundación Ecominga’s Dracula Reserve in northern Ecuador. It was expected that the \$68,000 would be donated in 2019, but administrative delays with Rainforest Trust’s 1:1 matching program delayed that donation. Those problems have been resolved and the money was sent just last week, enabling Fundación Ecominga to receive \$136,000 to expand the Dracula Reserve. This money is going specifically for purchase of properties at elevations not currently protected. In mountainous regions like the Andes, microclimates and ecological niches can change within a few hundred meters of elevation and the orchid flora, as well as other flora and fauna, also vary with the elevation changes. Thus, to protect the orchid diversity of a region, properties at varied elevations must be included in the reserve.

2019 also saw the OCA commit \$40,000 to a new reserve organization, the Fundacja Biodiversitatus. The Fundacja Biodiversitatus is based at the University of Lodz and managed by Marta Kolanowska. Prof Kolanowska is Assistant Professor of Geobotany and Plant Ecology. She has done numerous botanical explorations in southern Colombia and is working to establish a reserve named La Palma and an associated research station in Colombia’s Sibundoy Valley. The research station and reserve will be used for student training in botany and ecology. The property purchased was visited by Steve Beckendorf and Stig Dahlstrom who both enthusiastically supported the funding. The funds we donated purchased 72 acres. Coincidentally, the La Palma reserve is not too far from Reserva Yumartan, just outside the Sibundoy valley, the establishment of which the OCA funded in 2013. We are hopeful that the two reserves will synergise.

**ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOURS FOR 2019**

In 2019 the OCA conducted 5 Orchids in the Wild™ tours.

In March of 2019 the first tour traveled to the southwestern part of the province of Yunnan (China) led by Wenqing Perner (Hengduan Biotechnology) and Hong Jian (Kunming Forestry Institute). The group was able to see over 50 different orchid species in bloom in habitat, with the highlights including *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, *Vanda brunnea*, *Dendrobium lituifolium*, *Vandopsis undulata*, *Pleione yunnanensis*, *Phalaenopsis wilsonii* and *Holcoglossum himalayicum*. A special treat was the opportunity to watch (and film) a male greater hornbill feeding the female and her young through a hole in a tree.

In May and June of 2019, two separate groups traveled to Manaus, Brazil to board 'The Otter', a wonderful amazon river boat captained by Gilberto Castro (known for his role as the boat captain for several of the Amazon trips of the renowned botanical artist, Margaret Mee). The tours traveled up the Rio Negro river, literally floating up to the orchids of the flooded Amazon forest in smaller, flat bottom canoes. They saw lots of orchids as well as many birds including hoatzins and blue and gold macaws. On one late afternoon trip 8 sloths were spotted high up in the trees; in the morning at the same location not one was to be seen!

A small group traveled to Madagascar in September of 2019 on a trip organized by orchid experts Johan and Clare Hermans. The group traveled south from Antananarivo through the highlands and later to the eastern coastal area, visiting a number of different habitats including inselbergs, spiny forests, dry subtropical forests, moist evergreen rainforests and coastal dunes. Trip participants were able to see over 70 different orchid species in bloom, in addition to enjoying the lemurs, chameleons, geckos, moths and birds of this amazing country.

In October, the last tour of the year traveled to Papua New Guinea. The group spent most of the time in the central highlands, enjoying the incredible cultural diversity of this country, spotting at least 80 different orchid species in bloom, and hiking up the country's highest mountain (Mt. Wilhelm, although only one participant made it to the summit). A subgroup also traveled to the nearby island of New Britain, enjoying more cultural activities, WWII artifacts, snorkeling and swimming with dolphins, a climb up a live volcano, and an event filled trip to the highest mountain of the island to find orchids (which was unfortunately cut short by torrential rain..who knew that jeeps could float? but that is another story).

ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOURS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

The OCA has a number of tours planned for 2020. In March, immediately following the World Orchid Conference in Taiwan, the OCA Orchids in the Wild tour will travel to southern Yunnan. The tour itinerary is completely different from the 2019 tour, but is planned to see many different orchid species in bloom (e.g. *dendrobium*, *paphiopedilum*, *pleione*, and *phalaenopsis*) as well as wild elephants and black crested gibbons. There are still a few spaces open on this tour. In July, a tour to Colombia is planned, although details are not available at this time. In late September, we have a completely new tour, this time to Western Australia. The tour begins and ends in Perth, and is led by Australian orchid expert Andrew Brown. There are a few spaces open on this tour, but it is filling quickly. Finally, in October, our third tour to Madagascar is planned, again led by Johan and Clare Hermans (sorry this trip is fully subscribed). In 2021, we are thinking about tours to Sikkim, Brazil and Madagascar, but none of these tour itineraries or dates have been established as of this time.

PHOTOS FROM YUNNAN ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOUR, MARCH 2019



Row 1. *Vanda brunnea*, *Dendrobium trigonopsus*, Male Great Hornbill (*Bucaris bicornis*) feeding female in Tongbiguan Nature Preserve.

Row 2. *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, Kevin Stewart getting a great shot of the *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, *Dendrobium jenkinsii*.

Row 3. *Vandopsis undulata*, Hong Jian photographing a *Myracanthes floribunda* high up in a tree, *Coelogyne corymbosa*.

Row 4. *Pleione yunnanensis*, *Cymbidium lowianum*, *Dendrobium nobile*.

PHOTOS FROM RIO NEGRO ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOUR, MAY-JUNE 2019

Row 1. *Cattleya violacea*, S.S. Otter, our amazon river boat, *Eriopsis sceptrum*

Row 2. *Galeandra devoniana*, Sunset on the Rio Negro (thank you Tom Biggart for the photo!), Spiro Kasemenakis photographing something good

Row 3. *Sobralia macrophylla*, Pink Dolphin, *Prosthechea fragrans*

Row 4. *Sobralia sessillis*, Blue and Gold Macaws, *Oncidium cebolleta*

PHOTOS FROM MADAGASCAR ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2019



Row 1. *Cynorkis lowiana*, *Nepenthes madagascarensis*, *Aerangis fastuosa*

Row 2. *Oenia rosea*, Giraffe-necked weevil (*Trachelophorus giraffa*), *Cynorkis rosellata*

Row 3. *Angraecum dryadum*, Satanic Leaf Tailed Gecko (*Uroplatus phantasticus*), *Aerangis ellisii*

Row 4. *Aeranthus longipes*, Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*), The enigmatic baobab tree (*Andansonia grandidieri*)

PHOTOS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOUR, MARCH 2019



Row 1. *Dendrobium cutbertsonii*, Dennis Szeszko with one of the locals at the Sing Sing, *Taeniophyllum* sp.

Row 2. *Dendrobium aurantiroseum*, Huli Wigman, *Mediocalcar* sp.

Row 3. *Dendrobium cutbertsonii*, Mudmen, *Bulbophyllum* cf. *nitidum*

Row 4. *Bulbophyllum hians*, Skeleton men, *Dendrobium* sp.

PHOTOS FROM NEW BRITAIN ORCHIDS IN THE WILD TOUR, MARCH 2019

Row 1. Views of the volcano (Turvuvur) climbed by some of the group, locals demonstrating the cooking of Megapode eggs in the boiling water draining from the base of the volcano

Row 2. Some photos from the boat trip to the Duke of York archipelago

Row 3. The Baima Fire Dancers, New Britain. World War II artifacts.

Row 4. A few of the orchids spotted on the tour. *Trichotosia* sp., *Dendrobium* cf. *silvanium*, *Dendrobium finisterrae*



OTHER OCA FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

POE Dinner

For the last three years, the OCA has organized a fund raising dinner in conjunction with the Pacific Orchid Exposition (POE). In 2019, the dinner was held at a small restaurant near the venue for the POE. The group enjoyed delicious food and wine, and were introduced to the orchids of Costa Rica by Steve Kirby, a retired geologist who now volunteers at Bosque de Paz, an ecolodge and orchid garden in Costa Rica. After the dinner a number of donated items (e.g. orchids, photographs, art) were auctioned by Tom Mudge, an OCA member who in addition to having a great sense of humor, is a talented auctioneer. No dinner is planned for 2020, although the OCA will have a booth and presentations at the POE (Feb 20-23, 2020)

OCA Dinner at Peter’s house

In late August an OCA fundraising dinner was held at the home of Peter Tobias in Encinitas, CA. About 30 local members attended, many of whom brought orchids for a fundraising auction. Many of the same members went away with plants, hopefully not the ones they brought, raising just over \$1000.

Orchid Societies Supporting the OCA

The OCA would like to express its sincere gratitude to the orchid societies and their members who have send donations to the OCA. For 2019, the following Orchid Societies have provided financial support:

- Amherst Orchid Society
- Colorado Springs Orchid Society
- Diablo View Orchid Society
- Fascination of Orchids
- Five Cities Orchid Society
- Genesee Region Orchid Society
- Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
- Hilo Orchid Society
- North Jersey Orchid Society
- Orchid Species Society of Southern California
- Orchid Species Society of Brisbane (Australia)
- Oregon Orchid Society
- Portland Orchid Society
- Riverside/San Bernadino Orchid Society
- San Fernando Valley Orchid Society
- San Francisco Orchid Society
- Santa Clara Orchid Society
- Slipper Orchid Alliance
- The Orchid Species Society
- The Pleurothallid Alliance

OCA Sales and Promotions

Did you know that you can support the OCA through the purchase of books, t-shirts, and other items from our website (www.orchidconservationalliance.org)? Click on the tab for “shop” and go for it!



Upcoming Shows and Meetings

The OCA has an information and sales booth at a number of orchid shows. Come by our booth and say hello!

Tamiami Orchid Festival. January 17-19, 2020

Southern Ontario Orchid Show and Sale, February 8-9, 2020

Pacific Orchid Exposition. San Francisco. Feb 20-23, 2020

Santa Barbara Orchid Show. March 13-15, 2020

San Diego County Orchid Show. March 27-29, 2020

Sonoma County Orchid Show. Santa Rosa. March 28-29, 2020

OCA Directors speaking at Orchid Society Meetings

January 7, 2020. San Francisco Orchid Society. Ron Kaufmann, *Diamonds in the Rough. Orchids of Chapada Diamantina, Brazil.*

January 7, 2020. San Diego Orchid Society. Mary Gerritsen. *Miniature Orchids and How to Grow Them.*

January 8, 2020. Palomar Orchid Society. Mary Gerritsen. *Miniature Orchids and How to Grow Them.*

January 28, 2020. Marin Orchid Society. Mary Gerritsen. *Orchids of Chiapas*

February 1, 2020. Northeastern New York Orchid Society. Peter Tobias. *Orchid Conservation with the OCA. Don't get caught napping in the woods.*

February 3, 2020. Genesse Region Orchid Society. Peter Tobias. *Orchid Conservation with the OCA. Don't get caught napping in the woods.*

March 5, 2020. Orchid Society of Northern Nevada. Mary Gerritsen. TBA.

Orchid Reserves supported by the OCA

Reserva Rio Anzu (Ecuador) 220 acres

Reserva Yumartan (Colombia) 101 acres

Reserva Serra Bonita (Brazil) 250 acres

*Reserva Dracula (Ecuador) 2055 acres

Phragmipedium Fisheri Reserve (Ecuador) 18 acres

La Esperanza, Los Magnolios Reserve (Colombia) 744 acres

*La Palma Reserve (Colombia) 72 acres

*Current projects for which we are seeking funds for expansion

How you can help



You can support the OCA when you shop at Amazon through the Amazon Smile program. Just go to smile.amazon.com when you shop at Amazon. Designate the the Orchid Conservation Alliance as your charity on Amazon Smile, and when you order from Amazon, 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated to the OCA.

Encourage your local orchid society to become a supporter of the OCA.

Organize a fund raiser (e.g. plant auction, benefit dinner) in your home town.

Invite one of the OCA directors to your orchid society as a speaker.



NOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, WHY NOT RENEW YOUR ANNUAL OCA MEMBERSHIP?

Fill out this information form and send it back to us by mail. Or, you can renew on line through our website. www.orchidconservationalliance.org

Type of Membership (Annual)	Cost	What you get*	Put an X in the box for the membership level you want
Individual	\$40	You will receive periodic newsletters that provide updates on our projects to establish or expand reserves. These newsletters will also report on recent OCA trips to orchidaceous destinations around the world. An important benefit of membership is that you will get early notice of upcoming "Orchids in the Wild" trips as they become available. These trips often sell out, sometimes very quickly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$75	Enroll your entire family in the fight to preserve orchids and orchid habitats. You receive all the benefits of individual membership plus a discounted membership rate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$150	Membership at this level enables the purchase of half an acre of orchid-rich habitat in the tropics. In addition to an individual membership, you receive both a free t-shirt and a \$100 discount on an Orchids in the Wild trip.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefactor	\$350	Membership at this level enables the purchase of an acre of orchid-rich habitat or supports the guards who both document the species of the reserves, and help to protect the land. In addition to all the benefits of Individual Membership, you will receive a t-shirt and a \$200 discount on an Orchids in the Wild trip.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sponsor	\$1000	Sponsor membership pays the salary of a reserve guard for one month or enables the purchase of three acres of orchid rich habitat. In addition to all the benefits of Individual Membership, you will receive a free-t-shirt and a \$300 discount on an Orchids in the Wild trip.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

