



Cascada Santa Barbara, Los Magnolios Reserve, Colombia

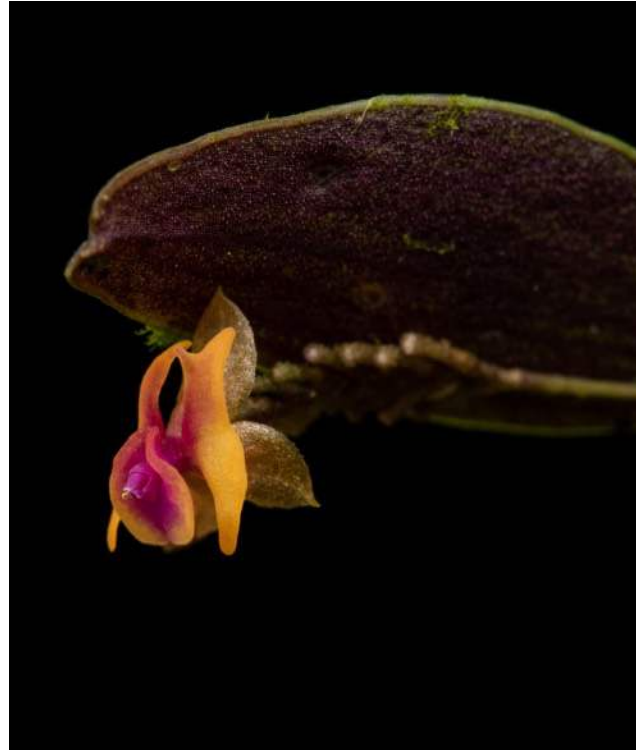
SalvaMontes

Los Magnolios is a conservation area in northern Colombia, managed by the Corporación SalvaMontes. Established in 2016 through a donation from the Orchid Conservation Alliance, the first purchase was a property of 343 acres in the central Andean Cordillera, north of the town of Yarumul. The OCA has continued to support the reserve, and with our donations as well contributions from other individuals and foundations, the total reserve area is now nearly 1000 acres.

Over the last year, several major accomplishments highlight the activities and importance of this reserve area. Three new *Lepanthes* species were described and published, two of them in honor of OCA donor Robert Pemberton (*Lepanthes pembertonii*) and his wife (*Lepanthes hwangiae*). The third is *Lepanthes wakemaniae* (named in honor of Elisabeth Wakeman, who also donated through the OCA). Continued explorations of the reserve have shown this region to be a special sanctuary for orchids of the Stanhopeinae alliance. To date, the botanists have identified three different species of *Houlletia* (*H. lowiana*, *H. odoratissima* and *H. walisii*), two species of *Sievekingia* (*S. colombiana* and *S. filifera* - recently listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List), two species of *Polycycnis* (*P. grandiflora* - a new record for both Colombia and South America - and *P. muscifera*), and other Stanhopeinae like *Acineta cryptodonta*, *Gongora* sp., *Schlimia jasminodora* and *Stanhopea platyceras*. This reserve also protects the habitat of other threatened plant species like *Dracula lemurella*, *Lepanthes golondrina*, *Magnolia polyhyposophylla* and *Magnolia guatapensis* and threatened animals like the Handley's slender possum (*Marmosops handleyi*), the Silvery-brown Tamarin (*Saguinus leucopus*) and the Andean poison frog (*Andinobates opisthomelas*).



Epidendrum sp. nov. Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Lepanthes hwangiae Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Lepanthes pambertonii Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Lepanthes wakemaniae Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Houlletia lowiana Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Lepanthes golondrina Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Polycynis grandiflora Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Polycynis muscifera Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Restrepia pelyx Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Sievekingia colombiana Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Sievekingia filifera Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Specklinia colombiana Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Stanhopea platyceras Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Stelis tarantula Photo by Sebastián Vieira



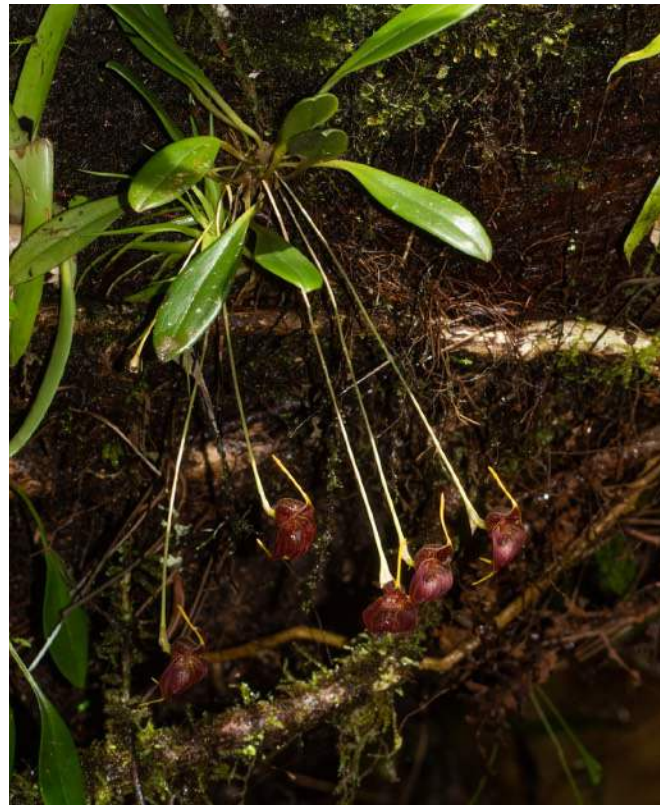
Trisetella cf. *triglochis* Photo by Sebastián Vieira



El Castillo Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Maxillaria lawrenceana Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Masdevallia macrogenia Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Views of the Cloud Forest at Los Magnolios Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Andinobates opisthomelas Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Chlorochrysa nitidissima Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Marmosops sp. Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Saguinus leucopus Photo by Sebastián Vieira



Pristimantis lemur Photo by Sebastián Vieira

SalvaMontes, Continued

The magnolia propagation activities developed with funds from Foundation Franklinia have allowed SalvaMontes to propagate more than 200 magnolia seedlings. These are now growing in the *circa situ* tree nursery and are available for adoption, allowing anyone to adopt a magnolia tree that will be planted back in its natural habitat to help with the recovery of local magnolia populations. Adopters will receive a digital certificate with their name (<https://www.salvamontes.org/adopt-a-magnolia-tree/>).



With SalvaMontes' partner, Conservation Allies, fundraising for the expansion of Los Magnolios by purchasing a parcel called El Castillo (608 acres of pristine forests) is going through a matching donation campaign during November and December 2022. Any individual donations under \$2,000 received through the campaign website (<https://www.salvamontes.org/fundraising-magnolios-expansion/>) will be doubled by Conservation Allies, up to a maximum of \$10,000. This is a great opportunity to give a nice holiday gift to mother earth that will be duplicated and help with the protect the habitat for orchids and other species of flora and fauna.

Members of the Orchid Conservation Alliance can donate to this cause through December 15, 2022 through our website <https://orchidconservationalliance.org/donate/> . **Be sure to designate your donation to the SalvaMontes Reserve.** We will wire the funds to the campaign website. All donations by USA residents through the Orchid Conservation Alliance (a 501(c)3 not for profit organization) may be tax deductible, but we do recommend checking with your accountant or tax attorney.

The naming of two species new to science

One of the new fundraising initiatives for the OCA was the opportunity for donors to support our reserves and projects through the Species Naming Donation. With a donation of \$15,000-\$20,000 per species, an OCA donor can have a new species named in their honor. We would like to recognize Robert Pemberton who donated not once, but twice, to have two new *Lepanthes* species named after him and his wife, Cho Yong Hwang Pemberton. Below is an extract from the scientific paper. Thank you, Robert!



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Two new species of *Lepanthes* (Pleurothallidinae, Orchidaceae) from the Alto de Ventanas, Colombia

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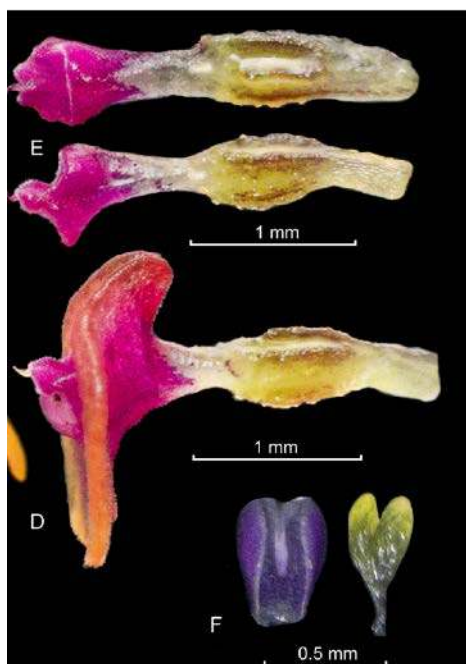
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Abstract

Two new species of *Lepanthes*, *L. pembertonii* and *L. hwangiae*, from the North of the Central Cordillera of the Colombian Andes are described and illustrated. Both were found while conducting research in Alto de Ventanas natural reserves with the objective of improving knowledge of the orchid flora of the department of Antioquia, Colombia. Comparison with their morphologically relatives and taxonomical and ecological notes are given.



Orchid Conservation Alliance Speakers Bureau

Since the initiation of the speaker's bureau in late 2021, this fundraising initiative has generated over \$10,500 in donations to the OCA! What is the speakers bureau? It is a panel of speakers who, when asked to speak to an orchid society or other plant society have donated their speaker's fee directly to the OCA. For their generous efforts we would like to thank Carrie Buchman, Roberta Fox, Mary Gerritsen, Debby Halliday, Ron Kaufmann, Bill Loy, Scott McGregor, Peter Tobias and Gary Yong Gee. You can learn more about the speakers bureau here:

<https://orchidconservationalliance.org/speakers/>. If you are a speaker and interested in joining this effort and getting listed on our website, please contact Mary Gerritsen at mary@orchidconservationalliance.org. Recommend the speakers on our bureau for your local orchid society meetings! There are lots of topics to choose from, and it's a wonderful way for an orchid society to support the various projects of the Orchid Conservation Alliance, and get a great speaker as well!

Orchids in the Wild: Future Trips

We have developed a fantastic selection of Orchids in the Wild Trips for 2023. Some of them are already fully booked, but spaces still remain. For details, registration etc. please visit our website:

<https://orchidconservationalliance.org/ecotours/>

The upcoming trips for for 2023 are:

Orchids of Sicily (April 10-19). As of this date, one spot available

Orchids of the Rio Negro, Brazil (May 8-17 and May 19-29). Lots of spots available

Native Orchids of Ohio (May 14-25). Waiting list only

Orchids of Madagascar (September 21-October 13). Waiting list only

Orchids of the Cape (South Africa). (December 1-13). Four positions available.

If interested, check the website for more information. If you would like to join one of the trips, register through the website and follow the directions to send in your deposit. As you can see the tours are high demand, so if you are interested, don't delay!

We are already planning tours for 2024, so let us know if there is something you are particularly interested in! Possible tours to Colombia, Costa Rica, Nepal and Spain are currently under consideration. We may also offer another Native Orchid tour in the USA or Canada.

There is lots of information on our website, including itineraries, photos, seminars, published articles, trip reports, etc. We invite you to visit our pages about previous tours. Just click on the photo with the name to retrieve this information.

<https://orchidconservationalliance.org/gallery/>

Dracula Reserve: News from EcoMinga

In April 2022, as part of the management of the Dracula Reserve, a municipal ordinance was created between the EcoMinga Foundation and the municipality of Tulcan. This document will help to promote conservation actions, preserve ecosystem services including the water supply, and encourage the sustainable development of communities surrounding the reserve. Also, as part of EcoMinga's outreach activities, a sticker album with photographs illustrating the biodiversity of the Tulcan area and Dracula Reserve, was created with the support of the municipality. This album is being distributed to 14,000 children who will learn about the beautiful species and landscapes that can be found in the Dracula Reserve and the biodiversity and cultural highlights of the canton.

In 2022, a new species of orchid, *Platystele finleyae*, was described, and two other new species, one *Pleurothallis* and one *Lepanthes*, are in the process of being described. Also, a frog species in the genus *Phyllonastes* is in the process of being confirmed as new to science. The number of new species discovered each year in the Dracula Reserve reflects the high biodiversity and conservation significance of this location.

In addition to new species, the Dracula Reserve includes discoveries that expand the known distribution ranges of *Lepanthes acrogenia*, *L. planadensis*, *L. ricautensis*, *L. quadricornis* and *L. elata*. The first four of these have previously only been recorded from Colombia, while *L. elata*, has a wide distribution from Central America to Bolivia but was previously not recorded in Ecuador. All five species have been found in different sectors of the Dracula Reserve, and a manuscript is being prepared to document these range extensions.

In our previous newsletter, we highlighted the threat that gold mining poses for this area and the supreme importance of protect this remarkable habitat from mining activity. The new discoveries further reinforce the need to conserve and expand the Dracula Reserve.



Pleurothallis sp. nov.

Dracula Reserve: Emergency Funding Update

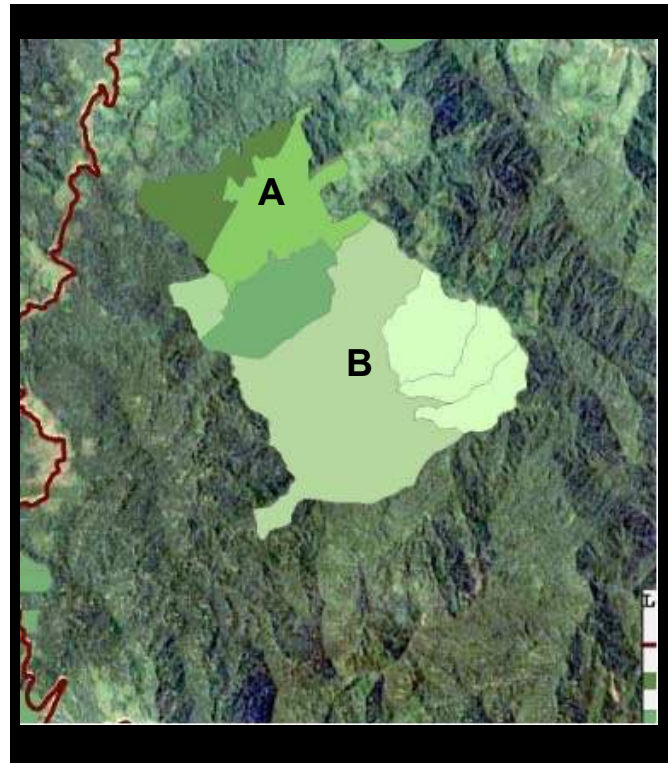
At the end of last year, we reported that EcoMinga's Dracula Reserve in northern Ecuador was threatened by illegal exploratory gold mining. As one approach to combat this threat we announced a \$100,000 fund raising campaign to help Fundación EcoMinga buy two affected properties. With the amazing support of you, our members and supporters, we actually overshot that goal by \$25,000! Many thanks to all of you.

Here's how things stand. The image below shows the entire owned properties of EcoMinga's Dracula Reserve in the Rio Blanco valley just south of Colombia as they were at the beginning of 2022.



Dracula Reserve Properties (January 2022)

The reserve properties are shown in solid green and the red line is a dirt road running north-south through the valley.



The left detail map shows a single property whose northern boundary was impacted by the mining. The right detail map shows the properties that EcoMinga aspires to buy, first, for their value to expand the Dracula Reserve, and second, to have more leverage over the activities of the mining company. Yes, the mining activity is/was illegal, but EcoMinga's legal position would be strengthened by owning the adjacent properties A and B.

The plan was that fundraising by the Orchid Conservation Alliance and our partner ReservaYLT would enable EcoMinga to buy both properties A and B. The other properties shown in the right detail map are slated for future acquisition. At the beginning of 2022 the prices for A (274 acres) and B (1050 acres) were \$100,000 and \$234,000, respectively. Because OCA's directors set out to fund the purchase of A, we set our goal at \$100,000. You, our members and friends, did a wonderful job of meeting and exceeding that goal.

However, as sometimes happens the situation has changed. As of November 2022, the owners of lot A have effectively taken the property off the market by increasing the price to \$833/acre, more than twice what had been negotiated just a year previously. If EcoMinga accedes to this demand, effectively all the property

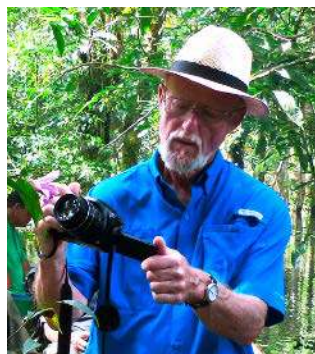
available in the area will rise in price, and very little will be affordable. Fortunately, the owners of lot B are still willing to sell for \$222/acre. Thus we have decided to direct the \$125,000 towards the purchase of lot B instead of lot A. Combining that sum with EcoMinga's funds in hand at the beginning of the campaign and with funds raised by ReservaYLT means that only \$13,500 remains to be acquired for the purchase of lot B. We hope that the \$13,500 will be raised by the end of 2022 so that this important purchase can be finalized soon. We are hopeful that when the owners of lot A see that lot B has been sold, they will revert to their earlier stance of a more reasonable price. We encourage our members and friends to make an end-of-the-year contribution to help us meet this goal! [Donate here!](#)

Changing of the Guard-New Orchid Conservation Alliance President

Peter Tobias recently submitted to the OCA Board of Directors his official retirement as President. Peter will continue to remain active as a director. His retirement statement follows:

"Back in 2005, when about a dozen of us gathered at my house for lunch with Lou Jost and the idea of an organization to support orchid conservation was hatched, we had no idea that the OCA could grow to where it is today. I won't bore anyone with how it happened; I'll just say that there have been a lot of orchid shows attended, a lot of orchid trips organized, and a lot of orchid society visits made. It has been wonderful to meet so many like minded people and to have had the privilege of sending large checks to support the purchase of wild orchid habitat, enabled by you, our membership. I cannot thank you enough.

Mary Gerritsen will take on the duties of President. I encourage you all to work with her as I will to make the next seventeen years as productive as the last seventeen. There is lots of opportunity, not to mention need, for orchid conservation."



Peter Tobias

Photographing wild orchids on the Rio Negro, Brazil.

Thank you Peter for your many years of valued leadership!

New President's Message from Mary Gerritsen

First and foremost, I would like to thank Peter Tobias for his 17 years of outstanding leadership and service to the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Peter has played a key role as the “face of the OCA” representing the OCA and its activities at various national and international orchid meetings, as well as through his lectures and other activities with orchid societies in the USA and Canada. As the organization grew and became ever more complex, Peter grew with it, and it is with some sadness that we see him step down as president. I hope I will be able to fill his “very big” shoes! I was fortunate to be one of the handful of people who gathered at Peter’s in 2005 with Lou Jost as our guest. We all asked Lou what could we do to help conserve orchids in Ecuador, and his answer was “Buy Land!”. We each put \$20 (or so) into a hat, and, the Orchid Conservation Alliance was born. We’ve come a very long way since that initial event!

We have lots of activities and projects planned in the near future, including increasing our support for the Dracula Reserve, additional fundraising for SalvaMontes, as well as developing new projects for funding and support. Our Orchids in the Wild Trips have become incredibly popular, and we hope to be able to offer an even broader range of tours for 2024. Next year for the first time we will offer a “Native Orchid Tour” in the USA, and it filled almost immediately, suggesting that there is definitely a market for domestic tours in the future. We are always open to new ideas about places to visit, so please send us your suggestions.

The success of the Orchid Conservation Alliance really depends on the support of its members, and I would like to encourage any of you interested in participating in some of the administrative activities of the OCA (trip planning, board of directors, committees, membership, newsletter editor, fundraising, publicity, marketing, etc.) to please get involved. It is an incredibly rewarding volunteer opportunity, and definitely a way to make a difference. Please [contact me](#) if interested. Over the next few months I hope to be able to provide more details about some of the new initiatives that the OCA will undertake.

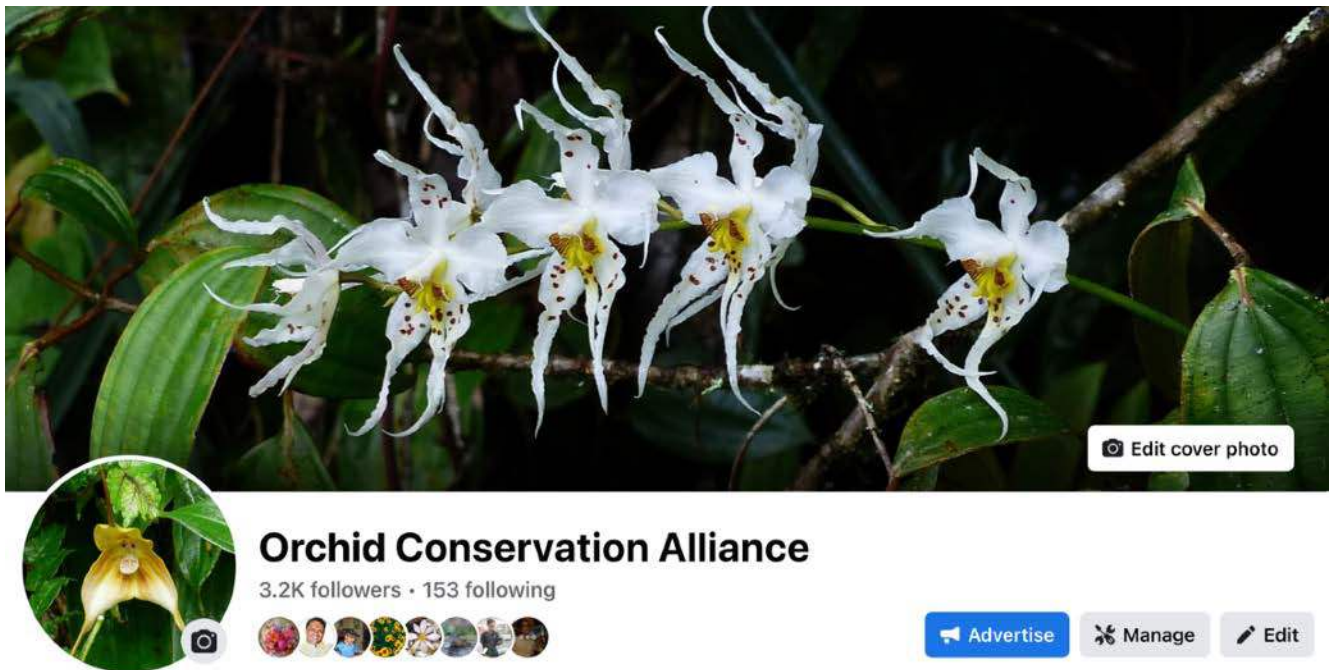
Ron Kaufmann is busily planning an OCA Conservation Symposium for the spring of 2023, and we are looking forward finalizing the dates and speaker list. As in the past, all registrants will be able to view the symposium via Zoom and will receive a link afterwards to a recording of the symposium.

Orchid Conservation Membership and Social Media

Our membership continues to grow, and 81 new members have joined this year, bringing our current total to 733 members. This is a remarkable accomplishment and we are very happy to welcome all of our new members. Most importantly, we would like to thank Roberta Fox, who continues her responsibility as membership chair. She has accomplished this duty by mastering a new membership system that has been extremely helpful in organizing our membership records, sending out emails, and keeping the OCA board of directors up to date. Thank you Roberta!

Our sincere thanks go to Candy Hollinger who continues to populate our Facebook and Instagram pages with stories, photos and news about orchid conservation and related topics. Her efforts help to spread the word about the OCA and our activities.

[Visit us on Facebook!](#)



Our Finances for 2022

(Tax filings are available on our website)

January 1-December 4, 2022

Income		
Donations and Memberships		\$234,425
Net Profits from Sale of Goods		\$6,381
Net Profits from Orchids in the Wild Tours		\$15,042
Total Income		\$255,848
Expenditures		
Legal and Professional Services		\$4,017
Marketing and Website		\$886
Office Expenses, Software Subscriptions		\$2,753
Taxes and Licenses		\$124
Reserve Expenses		
	EcoMinga	\$137,223
	Dracula	\$646
	SalvaMontes	\$75,819
Total Expenses		\$221,468
Assets		
Temporarily Restricted Assets		
	Dracula Reserve Fund	\$125,000
	Species Naming	\$7,500
Operating Budget Reserve		\$12,051
Total		\$144,551

The end of 2022 is fast approaching!

Have you renewed your Orchid Conservation Alliance Membership? Your dues are considered a donation and may be tax deductible.

We have several levels of membership:

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.

Family Membership \$75

Enroll your entire family in the fight to preserve orchids and orchid habitats. You receive all the benefits of an Individual Membership plus a discounted membership rate.

Patron Membership \$175

Membership at this level enables the purchase of half an acre of orchid-rich habitat in the tropics. In addition to all the benefits of Individual Membership, a \$100 discount on an Orchids in the Wild trip.

Benefactor Membership \$350

Membership at this level enables the purchase of an acre of orchid-rich habitat or supports the guards who both document species of the reserves and help to protect the land. In addition to all the benefits of Individual Membership, you receive a \$200 discount on an Orchids in the Wild trip.

Sponsor Membership \$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 get a \$300 discount on an Orchids in the Wild trip.

[Renew Here](#)

SOME RECENT PHOTOS FROM THE DRACULA RESERVE



Masdevallia picturata Photo by Marcos Monteros



Platystele finleyae Photo by Marcos Monteros



Pleurothallis aff. *bivalvis* Photo by Marcos Monteros



Pleurothallis ecominga Photo by Marcos Monteros



Andinia sp. Photo by Marcos Monteros



Lepanthes quadricornis Photo by Marcos Monteros



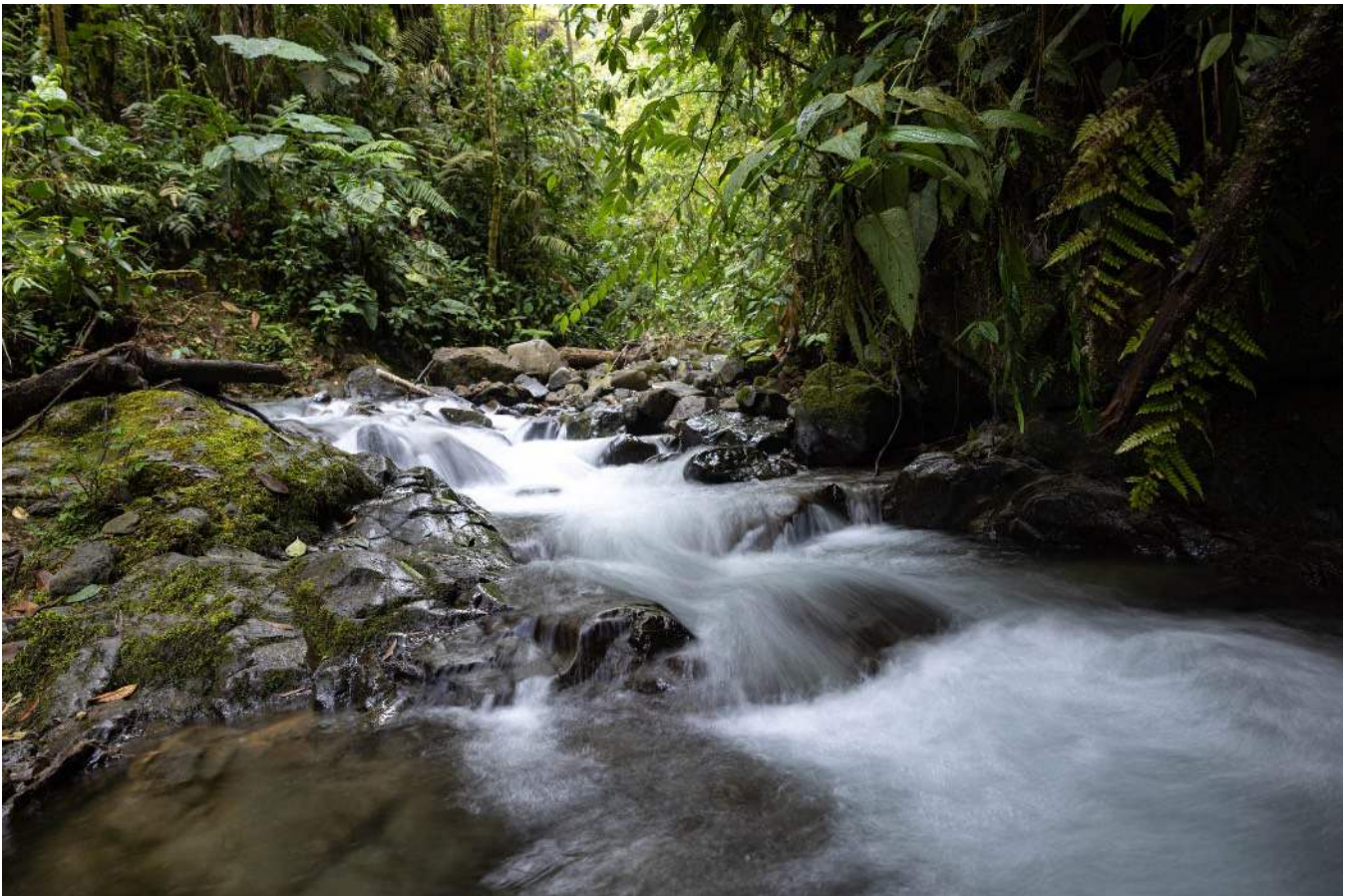
Lepanthes ricautensis Photo by Marcos Monteros



Lepanthes sp. nov. Photo by Marcos Monteros



Panoramic view from Lot B,
Photo by Callie Broaddus



One of the many pristine streams in Lot B,
Photo by Callie Broaddus



The vast cloud forest of Lot B,
Photo by Callie Broaddus



One of the many epiphyte encrusted trees in Lot B,
Photo by Callie Broaddus