



## **The Orchid Conservation Alliance**

Dear Member :

We hope you are having a great start to the new year. In this first of our 2024 newsletters, we are excited to share information about our current fundraising campaign, an update on our Orchids in the Wild Ecotours, and information about our poster presentation at the World Orchid Conference in Taiwan in February.

### **Dracula Reserve Fundraising Campaign**



**View of parts of the Dracula Reserve, courtesy of Callie Broaddus, Reserva: The Youth Land Trust**

The OCA has embarked on a fundraising campaign for an important expansion of the Dracula Reserve in northern Ecuador. This reserve is threatened by incursions from gold

miners, and already they have caused considerable environmental damage. Our current fundraising campaign will enable our conservation partner, Fundación EcoMinga, to complete the purchase of two adjacent properties that will effectively shut off access by mining interests to critical areas of this fantastically biodiverse, orchid-rich habitat. Details about this campaign are available in our December 2023 [newsletter](#). Our fundraising goal is **\$75,000 by March 2024**, and as of today, we have raised \$22,566. You can track our progress on this campaign by monitoring a fundraising thermometer on our home page: <https://orchidconservationalliance.org/> (scroll down toward the bottom of the page). I hope you will join us in this important conservation effort!

### **Orchids in the Wild Ecotours**

We are excited to announce that all eight of our Orchids in the Wild Ecotours for 2024 have space remaining, though in some cases this is very limited. If you're interested in joining us for one of these exciting trips, please visit our Ecotours page for more information and to register: <https://orchidconservationalliance.org/ecotours>.

Even though the deadlines for deposits have passed on several of the tours, it is still possible to make a last minute reservation where space is available. Please email Mary ([mary@orchidconservationalliance.org](mailto:mary@orchidconservationalliance.org)) to confirm. As of today, we have the following spots available. Note that five of the tours are to new destinations.

Orchids of Rhodes, March 20-30: Five spots open

Orchids of Nepal, April 15-28: Four spots open

Orchids of Spain, May 27-June 8: Four spots open

Orchids of the Rio Negro (Brazil), May 31-June 10: One cabin open (1-2 people)

Orchids of Newfoundland, July 13-21: Two spots open

Orchids of the Atlantic Rainforest (Brazil), September 5-16: Eight spots open

Orchids of Yunnan, October 1-14: Two spots open (note this tour visits areas of Yunnan not previously visited in our two prior tours).

Orchids of Madagascar, October 31-November 21: Three spots open.

We have posted photographs and trip reports from many of our 2023 ecotours. Please visit our website to learn more

about our tours over the past 10 years.

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

### **World Orchid Conference (WOC), Taiwan**

The OCA is presenting a poster at the WOC in late February.

If you are at the conference, please drop by and visit our poster, and talk to Ron Kaufmann, OCA secretary and a member of the board of directors. The paper for our presentation can be viewed on our website:

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

Thank you for all of your support! It is making a difference!

Yours sincerely,

Mary

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