

New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

Volume 8 Issue 2 Paph druryi 'Truford'

Next Meeting:

• FEBRUARY 1- 1:30 pm

• Scheduled Program:...
AOS slide show entitled
"The Big Three Cattleya
Species: *C. labiata*, *C.
trianaei*, and *C. mossiae*

• Location:

**The Bureau of Land
Management**
435 Montano NW
It's almost a mile west of
Interstate 25 (take the
Montgomery/Montano
exit). Go past Bob
Turner's Ford Country
but not past the Sonic
Drive-In. Turn at the
Sonic, one block east of
Edith, and you'll
see a dark brick building
on the north side of the
street. The conference
room is straight ahead
once you enter.

• As always there is a
potluck with a plethora
of wonderful food.

NMOG offers its
members the opportunity
to learn about orchids

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HELP MAKE NMOG MORE IN 2009

By Steve Fischer

NMOG is your organization and exists to meet your needs. I want to thank those of you who attended the January meeting and contributed ideas for the new year. An organization that is stuck in a rut, no matter how successful a rut, will ultimately fail. Or, to paraphrase Bob Dylan, one that isn't busy being born is busy dying.

The board has already begun to discuss how we can implement some of the top vote-getters. Keith is looking into the possibility of chartering a bus to the Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair taking place July 10-12. Connie Smith has agreed to co-chair a conservation committee with me to plan what we can do to help conserve *Cypripedium parviflorum*. It would be nice to have a couple more committed committee members. We've already scheduled a tutorial on Orchid Wiz as part of our spring show preparation.

The idea that most captured our attention is developing a mentorship program. We talked about how this could work for quite a while at the board meeting. We're going to be coming back to you at the February meeting to talk more about structuring this kind of program, what your needs are, and how the roles and responsibilities should be defined.

We are a varied group in terms of expertise—from the rank beginner to the retired AOS judge—so it's hard to meet everyone's needs at every meeting. Looking at it from another perspective though, this spectrum of interest and abilities is the perfect fit. New folks can benefit from the experience of more established growers, while the old timers get to share their knowledge. Everybody wins!

And if, as a new grower, you aren't getting the answers you need, please don't suffer in silence. NMOG is a very caring bunch of folks. The interest in becoming a better orchid grower has to be yours, but if that spark is there, we're here to help. Use the organization. We will all be the better for it.

I'd be remiss in not mentioning a few of the other special events planned for 2009. So mark these names and dates on your calendar. March 1, our good friends Martin and Mary Motes will return to Albuquerque. Martin will speak on the culture and development of modern Vandas and give you the opportunity to acquire some of his world famous hybrids. We will host a reception for Martin and Mary on Saturday evening, February 28.

May 1 through 3 will be our spring show, Orchid Obsession. It will be held at the Rio Grande Botanic Gardens, one of the best venues in the country for an orchid show. We're expanding our hands-on activities, so be getting your plants ready and think about how you can contribute.

Two other quick notes. On September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day, Glen Decker from Piping Rock Orchids will tell us all about collecting and cultivating *Phragmipedium kovachii*, the incredible "new" find from Peru. Then on November 8, we will return to the Botanic Gardens for Carol Siegel, President of the Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society and an Orchid Digest board member, who will talk about "The Sex Life of Orchids."

Sound like a great year? You bet.

THE LARGE-FLOWERED CATTLEYA SPECIES

By A.A. Chadwick

This article was written in the January 2005 AOS Issue and includes several other *Cattleya* species. I am reprinting the article as written.

When a vagabond plant collector named William Swainson sent a bundle of strange lavender-flowered plants thought to be parasitic to the Glasgow Botanic Garden in 1817, he opened the door to a flood of excitement that would engulf the horticultural world for the rest of the century.

Swainson had discovered the plants while he was exploring the steaming jungles of the province of Pernambuco in northern Brazil. He had seen them in full bloom when he arrived there in December 1816, and he couldn't wait to collect some and send them back to Scotland.

At Swainson's request, the Glasgow Botanic Garden gave some of the plants to a tropical plant enthusiast named William Cattley, who flowered one in his stove house in Barnet, England in November 1818. Swainson knew Cattley would like the just-discovered plants from Pernambuco because Cattley was addicted to collecting every new tropical plant he could find. The Pernambuco plants had flowers that were nothing short of spectacular in size, shape and color. They even had a sweet fragrance. Cattley was pleased beyond measure, and the new plants soon became the favorites in his collection.

In an effort to organize and describe his tropical plants, Cattley hired a young botanist, John Lindley, to catalog and illustrate his collection. Lindley did a yeoman's service for Cattley and, when Lindley published his book *Collectanea Botanica* in 1821, he even thanked his boss for his several years' employment by naming Swainson's Brazilian discovery in Cattley's honor. On tab 33 of *Collectanea Botanica* an appreciative Lindley established a new genus of orchids for Swainson's plant and he called the plant *Cattleya labiata*. The publication of *Collectanea Botanica* was a great day for orchids because the new genus, *Cattleya*, would become one of the most sought-after and treasured members of the orchid family for years to come.

Most plant collectors who went to Brazil in the early 1800s landed at the civilized port of Rio de Janeiro midway down the coast, so when early writers on orchids described the discovery of *C. labiata*, they assumed Swainson had done the same thing. Swainson had sent a large shipment of plants from Rio de Janeiro before he left Brazil, so it seemed to follow that he found the orchids there. What these writers did not know was that Swainson started his trip in Pernambuco and shipped his *C. labiata* plants from Pernambuco before traveling south toward Rio de Janeiro. By the time *C. labiata* became the buzz of the horticultural world, Swainson had moved on to exploring the wilds of New Zealand where no one could talk with him or even find him to clarify the matter.

In 1836, when another British naturalist, George Gardner, traveled to Brazil, the myth about where *C. labiata* had been discovered became more embedded than ever. Gardner managed to misidentify the orchid *Laelia lobata*, calling it *C. labiata* instead, and the native habitat of *Laelia lobata* in the Organ Mountains of Rio de Janeiro suddenly became the "original home" of *Cattleya labiata*.

Pernambuco is more than a thousand miles from Rio de Janeiro, so the myth that *C. labiata* had been discovered in the Organ Mountains created a trauma in the orchid world. Exhausted plant hunters fought their way through the jungles of Rio de Janeiro and the adjacent province of Minas Gerais for 70 years looking for *C. labiata* without finding a single plant. *Cattleya labiata* became a lost orchid and the few plants that still existed in cultivation tantalized European orchid hunters, who set a determined course to find new species to add to Lindley's genus *Cattleya*.

Cattleya labiata was the first of 17 large-flowered *Cattleya* species discovered by European collectors during the 1800s. It was not an easy job to find these species because they were usually hidden in the high cloud forests of the giant Andes Mountains, sometimes in impenetrable jungles, often teaming with deadly diseases and unfriendly natives. More than one collector died in the effort.

Ironically, the second large-flowered *Cattleya* species to appear on the orchid scene in Europe in the 1800s was not discovered in the 1800s. It had been found 44 years before *C. labiata* by two Spanish botanists, Ruiz and Pavon. The dried specimens this pair had sent from Peru to Spain in 1777 did not see the light of day until 1831, when John Lindley acquired them and described them as a new species, *Cattleya maxima*. The problem was, in 1831, no one had seen a live plant of *C. maxima* and no one even knew where to find one. There were now two large-flowered *Cattleya* species that were lost, and frustration reached new heights in the horticultural world of the 1830s.

Then, in 1836, the third large-flowered *Cattleya* species was discovered, this time in Venezuela, by George Green of Liverpool. It had taken 18 years after the appearance of *C. labiata* to find it. In 1836, William Jackson Hooker, a university professor in Glasgow received some *Cattleya* flowers from a friend of Green's, a Mrs. Moss of Otterpool near Liverpool. Mrs. Moss also sent a folio sketch of the plant that she drew herself. The flowers of the new species were unusually large, measuring 8 1/2 inches (22 cm) across, and they made the flowers of Lindley's *C. labiata* look small by comparison.

Continued page 3

Hooker published a description of *Cattleya mossiae* in Curtis's Botanical Magazine (65: 3669) dedicating the plant to Mrs. Moss for all her efforts. He said *C. mossiae* was different from *C. labiata* because of the multiple leads produced by the plant, the large size of the flowers, their broader sepals and petals, and the color markings of their lip. What Hooker overlooked in his description was that *C. mossiae* flowered in the spring, while *C. labiata* flowered in the autumn. This wide difference in flowering season was far more important to establishing *C. mossiae* as a new species than the size of the flowers, their petal width, branching rhizomes and lip pattern. The picture Hooker published with his description depicts a classic *C. mossiae* with petals that fall forward and a deeply splashed lip pattern. But, *C. mossiae* also has clones with petals that stand upright like *C. labiata* and have a solid labiata-colored lip, so Hooker failed to make a case that his *C. mossiae* was really a different species from *C. labiata*. He lacked the important dynamic or living elements in his description, like flowering season, that would have done this. Hooker's description of *C. mossiae* as a new species, however, was a landmark in the botany of the large-flowered *Cattleya* species because it established a precedent for all the species that came after it. *Cattleya mossiae* enabled botanists to claim species status for plants that were so similar that the old rules of botany were inadequate to describe them. Hooker's *C. mossiae* said loud and clear that not every large-flowered lavender *Cattleya* discovered in the jungles of South America was a variety of *C. labiata*.

When grown in temperate climates like Europe and the United States, of course, *C. mossiae* has other dynamic characteristics that are not like *C. labiata*. After completing its growth, *C. labiata* rests less than a month before sending up flower buds. *Cattleya mossiae*, in comparison, rests almost six months before forming buds. *Cattleya mossiae*'s fragrance also differs from *C. labiata*'s — a fundamental characteristic in separating species because it suggests a different pollinating insect. *Cattleya mossiae* has a strong, flowery fragrance, while that of *C. labiata* is more delicate and muted.

After *C. mossiae*, the discovery of the large-flowered *Cattleya* species was something of a circus ride. The collector Josef von Warscewicz was able to find almost any orchid in the jungle, but he seemed unable to get them back to civilization. In 1848, he found his own namesake, *Cattleya warscewiczii* in Medellín, Colombia, but managed to lose all the plants. Only the dried specimens reached his friend, a young German botanist named Heinrich Reichenbach. When Warscewicz discovered *Cattleya dowiana* in Costa Rica in 1850 he lost both the plants and the dried specimens. People doubted his glowing description of the species until it was rediscovered 15 years later in 1865 by Arce. James Bateman, who described *C. dowiana* in 1866, actually said he could not really swear it was a new species — so much for intestinal fortitude and botanical conviction. Then there was *Cattleya trianaei*, which turned up in 1850. *Cattleya trianaei* was imported and sold in large quantities by 1855 by Jean Jules Linden's Belgian firm, L'Horticulture Internationale. Linden gave it the name *C. trianaei* so he could sell it, but it took him until 1860 to convince his friend Reichenbach to describe it as a new species.

During these years, botanists were so busy telling each other what was not a large-flowered *Cattleya* species that they were often unable to determine what was. Uninhibited by academic thinking, horticulturists developed a good system to separate the species based on the plant's live growing and flowering habits, but they made the mistake of leaving botanical classification to the botanists. As a result, the species continued to change in rank, drifting from variety to species to subvariety for most of the 19th century. John Lindley established the genus *Cattleya* with *C. labiata*, then, after describing *C. maxima*, refused to add any more large-flowered species to the genus from then on until his death in 1865. Heinrich Reichenbach realized the importance of what he called "organic differences" (flowering season, growth and flowering cycles and fragrance) between the species, but was too intimidated by Lindley's legacy to push the idea. In a final act of contempt for his critics, Reichenbach placed his entire orchid herbarium off limits to botanists for 25 years after his death, so a new generation of botanists could take an objective look at things.

GROWTH AND FLOWERING CYCLES: Although Reichenbach could not tell it from the dried specimens he received from Warscewicz, a major difference between *C. warscewiczii* and *C. labiata* or *C. mossiae* was its flowering habit. Both *C. labiata* and *C. mossiae* complete their growths, then rest a month or more before flowering. *Cattleya warscewiczii*, however, flowers before its new growth is completed, and the flower buds emerge from the sheath while the pseudobulb is still actively growing.

These growth and flowering patterns of the large-flowered *Cattleya* species can have significant botanical value in describing the species. The 17 species can be divided into two groups based on whether they have a resting period after completing their new growth or they do not rest. They can be divided further based on how long they rest or, if they do not do so, whether the buds emerge from the sheath before the new growth is mature, or whether they appear as tiny buds in the sheath at maturity of the pseudobulb.

At times, the artificial rules of botany severely inhibit our ability to evaluate nature, and the large-flowered *Cattleya* species are a good example of this. It was unnecessary to drag these species through 100 years of botanical uncertainty, when the people who grew them in the mid-1800s had already answered all the questions on how they were different, and why they should be separate species.

FRAGRANCE: We have not yet found a way to describe fragrances with simple words, but if you grow the large-flowered *Cattleya* species, you need no other characteristic to identify them. They all have lovely, distinct fragrances that are unique to each species. This is another wonderful benefit these species offer, for they can make your home smell like an ever-changing fragrant flower garden every day of the year.

It is difficult to say too many positive things about the large-flowered *Cattleya* species. No two of their large, showy flowers in enchanting shades of lavender are, like people, ever exactly alike. They are one of the most feminine flowers in the whole realm of orchids, with a thin, delicate substance that is glistening and fragile. The various large-flowered *Cattleya* species flower year round and all have delightful fragrances. If you really get to know them, they will tell you the season of the year and sometimes even the day of the week.

I think the greatest compliment the large-flowered *Cattleya* species have received is that in the major countries where they grow wild they have been named the national flower. These are countries where literally thousands of different orchids grow wild — orchids from a wide range of genera — yet it is *C. mossiae* that is the national flower of Venezuela, and *C. trianaei* that is the national flower of Colombia, not a species of *Phragmipedium*, *Sobralia* or *Miltoniopsis*.

The large-flowered *Cattleya* has always been called the queen of the orchid world and, after passing through two centuries of popularity, the queen still reigns over the whole year with a friendly grace and a timeless beauty.

An Orchid Myth

Many have heard the story that *Cattleya labiata* was discovered by accident when it arrived in England as packing material around some ferns. William Cattley, the story goes, threw the packing material under the bench in his stove house and, astonishingly, the packing material flowered as *C. labiata*.

This myth grew out of an article written in 1893 by Frederick Boyle, entitled “The Lost Orchid” in which Boyle observed, with typical British humor, that William Swainson, the discoverer of *C. labiata*, probably did not know himself where *C. labiata* grew and that “The orchids fell in his way — possibly collected in distant parts by some poor fellow who died at Rio. Swainson picked them up, and used them to pack his lichens.”

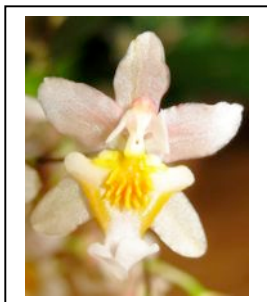
In 1893, no one really knew where Swainson had collected *C. labiata*, but Boyle’s bit of fun and nonsense was taken seriously by future writers, who molded it into the grand myth described above. It was not until 1900 that Swainson’s written account of his journey through Brazil in 1817 and 1818 was discovered and the facts exposed. As it turned out, Swainson discovered *C. labiata* in Pernambuco, Brazil, not Rio de Janeiro, and, as he saw the plants in full bloom, he knew they were magnificent. He knew William Cattley would like them, and Cattley took good care of the plants on their arrival in Barnet.

SHOW AND TELL WINNERS



Oncidium Twinkle is a cross between *Oncidium cheiroporum* and *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*. Being an *ornithorhynchum* hybrid, the plant stays compact, the flowers are profuse and very fragrant smelling of vanilla and spice. This is an easy growing plant that will do well in most conditions.

This plant prefers low medium light, from 700-2000 foot-candles. In homes, an east window is ideal. In south or west windows it must be protected from the blazing sun and kept from being too hot. If grown outside in the summer, make sure it is in a brightly diffused shady area. It prefers intermediate temperatures with winter nighttime temps from 58° to 64° and daytime temps of 69 -75°. Summer temps can be a few degrees warmer. Humidity of 50% or higher is ideal. It is best to increase moisture with humidity trays or room humidifier. Kathy grows all of her *Onc. Twinkle* hybrids on an east facing windowsill in her kitchen which provides the recommended temperature range and light level. They are watered about once a week with tap water and fertilized as recommended with GrowMore 20-10-20. Once a month they are flushed with plain distilled water. The humidity level is probably on the low end but they seem to do fine.



Oncidium twinkle
 Owner: Kathy Mancini Div III
 Photographer: Kathy Mancini



Laelia gouldiana 'Greta Gabor' from the Raymond Burr collection
 Owner: Steve Fischer Div I
 Photographer: Kathy Mancini

Laelia gouldiana 'Greta Garbo' is from Raymond Burr collection. It is rare in habitat in Mexican state of Hidalgo. *L. gouldiana* grows warm to cool with drier winter rest. Steve keeps his outside until it freezes. This particular bloom has a 30" inflorescence with 3" fragrant magenta flowers Lindley originally describes as a variety of *L. autumnalis*, but is called *L. gouldiana* in the Kew checklist.



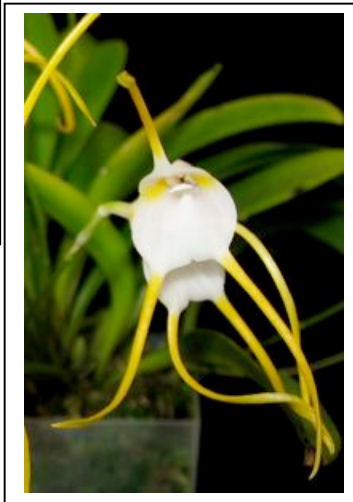
Photographer: Clark Haskins



Masd. decumana
 Owner: Dennis Gomez Div III
 Photographer: Kathy Mancini



Masd. mejiana
 Owner: Dennis Gomez Div III
 Photographer: Kathy Mancini



Masdevallia mejiana is one of the few truly warmer growing *masdevallias* available. It grows in the Western Cordillera part of Colombia at the elevation of 500-815 meters where it can be found growing high in the branches of tall trees, in considerable sunlight. The inflorescence is characterized by a solitary (occasionally followed by a second) 10 cm white flower with faint purplish speckling and a yellow flush where the dorsal and lateral sepals fuse, and with bright yellow tails. There is a spicy-sweet fragrance that emanates during the day.



Masdevallia decumana was first collected in 1979 by the Konigers in the Department of the Amazonas in northeast Peru, where it is found in the cloud forest at the elevation of 2100 meters. It occurs occasionally in southeastern Ecuador. The latin word *decumanus* means of a large size and when you see the plant before it blooms you may think that this was a sarcastic description of the plant. Instead this description relates to the flower, which can often cover the leaves of the plant itself. This *masdevallia* is not as robust as some of its relatives but with a little patience the plant rewards you with such beautiful flowers. This particular plant is suggested for cool to intermediate temperatures 50-60 F at night with day time temperatures 60-75 F.



Burrageara Stefan Isler
Owner: Vickie & Clark Haskins Div I
Photographer: Clark Haskins

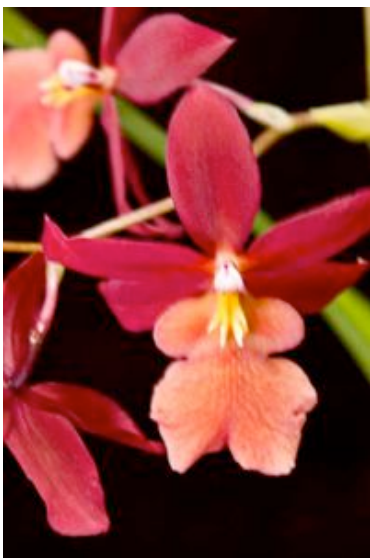
Paphliopedulum Jamie Chantry is a complex cross between Primulinum 'Green Elf' x Paph. Jolly Green Gem 'New Year'. It retains the color and shape of the parent Primulinum. It is a sequential bloomer. Species parents grown in forests on the Sumatra/Indosian border.

Dendrobium alexandrae
Owner: Steve Fischer Div I
Photographer: Clark Haskins

Paph. Anna Szabo x Bill Eliau
Owner: Pam MacKenzie Div II
Photographer: Kathy Mancini



Paphliopedulum Anna Szabo x Paph Bill Eliau is a complex hybrid with a huge flower. Its petals and lip are wine colored with spotting above. Pam grows it on a plant shelf with a plastic cover on her unclosed back porch facing south. It likes temps in the low 60's, humidity at 70-75%. She waters it every 5 days and uses the Michigan formula fertilizer every other watering.



Burrageara Stefan Isler is an especially lovely inter-generic cross of Cochlioda, Miltonia, Odontoglossum and Oncidium. It has a vibrant red color with a yellow to orange lip that is unusual. It has numerous, very long lasting, one inch flowers on spikes that often branch. The Oncidium half of the plant makes it an easy grower. It's low to medium light requirement would seem to make it a great plant for most home conditions. However, it likes a nighttime low of 58-65 degrees make it a little more picky about where it would like to make its home. It is a vigorous plant which blooms up to two times a year. Vickie's plant was purchased from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and bloomed twice this year.

Dendrobium alexandrae is an interesting species related to D. spectabile and once thought to be a hybrid of this species. It was named for Rudolf Schlechter's wife who spent several years in German New Guinea (now Papua New Guinea) around the turn of the 20th century. He described an incredible number of new species and provided taxonomic structure for Dendrobiums that is still basically sound. It is found as a medium to large sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte on moss-covered trees in cool mist forests at elevations of 1000 to 1200 meters in high light. It can be mounted or grown in a pot as long as excellent drainage is provided, a moderate lessening of water and fertilizer is advisable in short day conditions of temperate-latitude winters.



NATURE JOURNAL: LOOK FOR NATIVE ORCHIDS IN WINTER

In the Blue Ridge Province from southwestern Virginia into north Georgia, there are about 50 native orchid species. We think of showy orchis and lady's-slippers in spring, yellow- and purple-fringed orchids in summer, and ladies'-tresses in autumn. As curious as it may seem, however, winter is the prime time to locate several of our native orchid species by their distinctive leaves.

Puttyroot (*Aplectrum hymale*) and cranefly orchis (*Tipularia discolor*) bear leaves only in winter. Their solitary basal leaves emerge in late summer, after the flowering period, and are conspicuous in woodlands from late November into early spring. Then, as the flowering stems emerge in spring, their leaves wither and quite literally disappear. For this reason, they are sometimes called winter leaf or hibernal orchids.

This winter leaf strategy obviously evolved as a way to collect the sun's energy most efficiently in rich hardwood forests when the leaf canopy is absent. Both plants have prominent bulb-shaped roots (corms) that are well adapted for energy storage. Once the canopy closes overhead in spring, the leaves die back so as to allow the stored energy to be channeled directly into the flowering and fruiting processes.

Cranefly orchis derived its common name from the fancied resemblance of its delicate flowers to the insect of that name. Although the plant is rather common throughout the Blue Ridge, it is inconspicuous when flowering, often in shaded habitats. The winter leaf is its outstanding feature. The upper side is dark green and purple spotted with wart-like bumps so that it resembles a toad's back. The underside is a rich satiny purple.

Puttyroot is quite common in rocky woodlands throughout the Blue Ridge. The attractive gray-green oval leaf can be up to 7 inches long by 3 inches wide. As described by Doug Elliott in "Roots: An Underground Botany and Forager's Guide" (1976), "This leaf has thin, white pinstripes, is folded like a pleated skirt, green on the top side, with a tinge of purple underneath."

Puttyroot derived its name from a sticky paste that can be rendered from the fleshy, glutinous corms. The early settlers reputedly used this paste to mend broken crockery or similar items. Long before their arrival on the scene, the Cherokees had discovered the high-energy content of this rootstock and fed it to their babies to make them fat and healthy. For some unknown reason, they also supposed that consuming this fare would enable their babies to grow up to be eloquent orators.

Puttyroot's other common name, Adam-and-Eve root, is derived from the fact that this year's leaf-bearing corm (Eve) remains attached to last year's corm (Adam) by a strand (stolon) of umbilical-like root filament. Elliott asserts that the root system has "a cupid-like reputation for helping to maintain the bond between lovers (who) each receive one of the corms. ... As the legend goes, so long as the pair maintains possession of their respective roots, their bond shall remain strong and true."

As expected, the underside of the leaf was a rich purple hue, so we knew for sure we had found a native North American orchid--specifically the Cranefly Orchis, also known as Crippled Cranefly. This plant is unusual in that it produces a "hibernal" leaf--one that appears in late fall, lasts the winter, and then withers in spring before the 18-inch-tall flower stalk appears in late summer. The blossoms are relatively obscure for a terrestrial North American orchid, being green and brown; they blend in well with summer vegetation--which is probably why we've never noticed any cranefly flowers around Hilton Pond.

Pollinated by noctuid moths, the blooms resemble the gangly Crane Fly that gives the plant its common name. This orchid's scientific epithet, *Tipularia discolor*, refers to the Latin word *tipula* (Crane Fly) and the two very different colors of the top and bottom of the leaf. We've made a mental note about the location of this bright green winter leaf and will be checking the site next summer to see if it has given rise to inflorescence.



Cranefly orchis



Top of Leaf



Underside of Leaf

Puttyroot (*Aplectrum hymale*) -
Hibernal (winter) Leaf

Keith Mead Treasurer
PO Box 26473
Albuquerque NM 87125-
6473

PHONE:

(505) 898 0975

Email:kjkm@comcast.net**News Contributions:****E-MAIL:**smith_nmog@earthlink.net**Board meeting**

February 19th 2008, 6:30
pm at the home of Joanne
Bodin. All members are
welcome to attend. If
you want to express an
opinion, bring up ideas,
etc, you must be on the
agenda.

Contact Debby
Lieberman at

deblieberman@earthlink.net
or 286 0196 no later
than 11/17/08

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.nmog.org>

ORCHIDS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT LONGWOOD GARDENS' ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA, JANUARY 24-MARCH 31, 2009

Kennett Square, PA - Longwood Gardens pays homage to one of the world's most beloved flowers during Orchid Extravaganza, January 24-March 31, 2009, celebrating the divas of the plant world with thousands of orchid blooms, displays and special exhibits. New this year is a towering, revolving Orchid Mobile suspended from Longwood's East Conservatory ceiling. The award-winning Living Wall of Orchids returns, fashioned to resemble a massive curtain.

In 2009, Longwood Gardens is the place to "bee" as it showcases pollination and its importance to the environment with the changing exhibit: The Birds & The Bees: Pollination and the Secret Lives of Plants. The exhibit opens with a look at which pollinators orchids rely on. Go back in time to Victorian England and relive Orchid Mania when explorers went to harrowing lengths to collect these treasured plants. Longwood's collection of historic orchids is depicted in stunning images by photographer David Ward. See Ward's images and then visit Longwood's Orchid Room for the real thing.

The International Orchid Show & Sale, March 27-29, offers tours, plant sale, a dinner dance, and other special events.

About Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is one of the world's great horticultural displays, offering 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows; 20 outdoor gardens; 20 indoor gardens within 4 acres of heated greenhouses; 11,000 different types of plants; spectacular fountains; extensive educational programs; and 800 horticultural and performing arts events each year.

NMOG DUES REMINDER

Your yearly dues need to be paid by mid March to continue receiving the monthly newsletter. You can pay at February meeting or by mail. Your check needs to be mailed to Keith Mead. The address is at the top of this page on the left. Thank you.