



This month our meeting will be held at the Bureau of Land Management 435 Montano NW on the Sunday September 13th at 1:30 PM

The BLM is almost one mile west of Interstate 25 Take the Montgomery/Montano exit and go past Bob Turner's Ford Country turn at the Sonic Drive In one block East of Edith

The BLM building is the dark brick building on the North side of the street. Enter the main door and proceed to the conference room straight ahead.

As always please bring a snack to share

Members are encouraged to wear their membership badges

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**GLEN DECKER**

***PIPING ROCK ORCHIDS***

***Phragmipediumium kovachii***

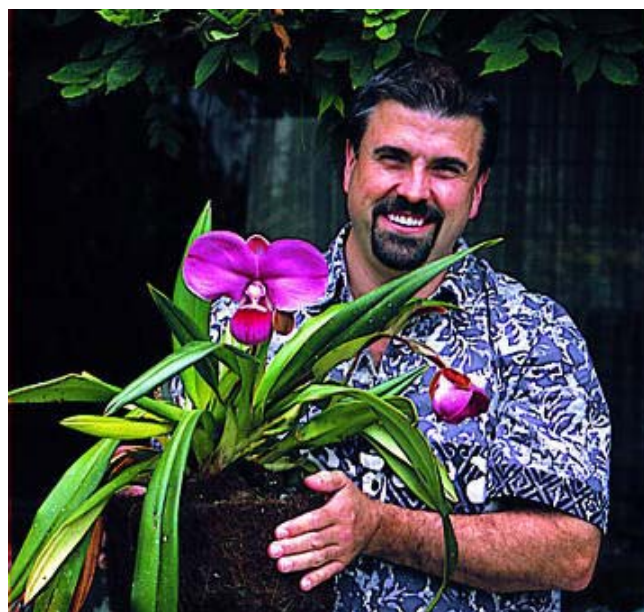
***What more can we say !***

Glen Decker began growing orchids at the age of 15 and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. Glen is presently the owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, New York. He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and is presently a Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. Glen has won numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, WW Wilson Award and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He has appeared on Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium". He recently rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book.

Piping Rock is the first American nursery to be actively propagating and hybridizing this great new species from Peru. This has been a project that they have been working on since May of 2003, when Alfredo Manrique, owner of Centro de Jardinaria Manrique, Lima, Peru, was granted the first permit to collect the five plants that they are presently working with. Since that time, three companies have formed an exclusive partnership for the US, European and Asian markets to make this all happen, one from Peru and the other two from the United States.

Glen will be bringing plants to sell and members can still preorder via email, phone or website [www.pipingrockorchids.com](http://www.pipingrockorchids.com)

Don't miss this great opportunity to hear Glen speak.



## WHAT'S NEW ?

Many good suggestions were made during our August meeting "get to know you" sessions. Your Board of Directors has decided to implement three of these with this newsletter issue.

First, a question and answer column. If you have a question, any orchid related question, just send it to the editor at [kjkm@comcast.net](mailto:kjkm@comcast.net) and we will find an answer for you.

Next, a classified ad section. If you have a plant or orchid related item you would like to sell or trade send it to the editor and we will include it in our next newsletter. *No commercial enterprises please.*

Finally, a monthly "to do" column. Want to know what items need attention for the month? Check out this column for a list.

### OCTOBER

**Our good friend Norman Fang  
will be returning.  
Save the date, October 4th**

### NOVEMBER

**"PESTS, REPOTTING AND PROBLEMS"  
DON'T MISS THIS ONE!  
November 1st**

### DECEMBER

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th  
from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
AT THE SAVOY  
WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR A  
REGISTRATION FORM**

## The New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter

is published monthly

Please visit our website

[www.nmog.org](http://www.nmog.org)

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The New Mexico Orchid Guild, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization dedicated to community service and the study of orchids.

Annual Dues are \$25.00 for individual or family membership.

Contact: NMOG at PO Box 26473, Albuquerque, NM 87125

## YOU ARE INVITED

The Board of Directors invites you to an informal reception to meet our guest, Glen Decker. The reception will be held at the home of Keith and Judi Mead, 5425 Thomas Drive NE ( *one block West of Juan Tabo, one block North of Spain*) on Saturday, September 12th, from 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM

## ARE YOU?

New to growing orchids? Uncomfortable asking questions in a large group? Please join us at 1:00 PM prior to the monthly meeting. "Seasoned" growers will be on hand to answer your questions, one on one, and act as mentors.

## HAVE YOU?

Checked out our wonderful website lately? [www.nmog.org](http://www.nmog.org)  
Our webmaster (mistress?) Vickie Haskins has been hard at work updating the site. It looks GREAT Vickie. Thanks.

## SHOW TIME !

WHAT? You must be crazy ! The annual show isn't until May 2010. Well, crazy maybe, but putting together this show requires a great deal of time and advance planning so expect to be hearing a lot about it in the coming months.

We have a show theme **Orchid Odyssey**. We have a show date **April 30– May 2** We have a location. **Albuquerque BioPark**. What do we need ? **YOU**. It is not too early to be thinking about where you would like to volunteer. Committees are being formed for BioPark liaison, volunteer coordination, treasury, plant sales, awards & judging, conservatory plant display, and conservatory arrangement display. Contact any Board member to volunteer.

How are about a little spice in your reading? Love, **sex**, deception, **sex**, manipulation, **sex**, and of course prostitution are all found in the September 2009 National Geographic. No it is not the latest congressional scandal. It is about orchids. "Sneaky, Sexy Orchids."

Great Article.

Thanks to Vickie Haskins for sharing !

# Fall Orchid Growing Tips

## **Repot as orchids go out of bloom**

Encyclias, Miltonias, Stanhopias, Doritis and Doritis hybrids should be repotted as they finish their summer blooming cycles. This is also the time to repot any seedlings that are starting to outgrow their compots as the cooler conditions will make it easier on them.

## **Watch your watering schedule**

Fall and spring are the hardest times of year to water orchids, especially outdoors or in a greenhouse. Reduced heat and fewer daylight hours cause your plants to grow more slowly and therefore need less water. You need to be very careful so that you do not overwater and rot roots. Indoor plants should be kept on the same watering schedule.

## **Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchids**

Now is the time to initiate cool nights for your Phals if you want them to flower for you in the Spring. Night-time temperatures around 60 degrees Fahrenheit, or 15.5 degrees Celsius, for about 2-3 weeks will start the inflorescence. Once initiated, you can put the plants back in their normal conditions.

## **Get ready to bring your orchids in**

September is an extremely variable month in most areas and it requires vigilance for orchid growers who need to watch those night-time temperatures so that their plants do not get chilled. Start checking your plants for insects in the pots, clean up sheaths where bugs can hide and ready your plants to bring inside at a moment's notice. You will be ready to go without panicking on that first chilly night.

## **Air Circulation**

With the cooler fall temperatures, insects and fungus will start to take over your collection if you let them. Good housekeeping and air circulation will help to keep things in control. It is natural to think that fewer fans are necessary as the temperature goes down, but keep them going at a lower rate to discourage mold and fungus. Keep an eye out for scale and other insects.

## **Plan to remove shade cloth on Greenhouses**

As the days get shorter, the light levels will also be reduced. If you have shade cloth on a greenhouse you will need to remove it in the latter part of September or early October. When you do so, be sure to move your plants around so that those that can take the higher light levels are shading those that need less. It is very easy to burn leaves on low light level plants when you make a sudden change like this.

From Susan Taylor, Bella Online

# Conservation of the Habitats of *Cattleya nobilior* & *Cattleya walkeriana*

Lou Menezes

Within the context of the rich biodiversity of orchids in central Brazil, particularly in the central-western region, where the relief is highly diversified, with the ground surface at different altitudes and forming 11 well-defined geomorphological units, two species stand out due to their flowers of fascinating beauty and intoxicating scent: *Cattleya nobilior* Rchb.F and *Cattleya walkeriana* Gardner. Large populations of these epiphytic and rupicolous species are also found in other regions of Brazil. *Cattleya nobilior* is found in northern and northeastern Brazil and even in Bolivia, while *Cattleya walkeriana* occurs in the southern and southeastern part of the country. The great morphochromatic variation exhibited by the flowers of these species, together with the small plant size and medium flower size, as compared with the large plant and flower size of the other species of the genus, seems to explain why growers, especially Asian growers, prefer these species.

In their habitats in the savannah biome, the populations of *Cattleya nobilior* and *Cattleya walkeriana*, like all orchids in the region, are seriously threatened with extinction by the devastation of the environment. The increase in agriculture, particularly for the growing of soybeans, sugar cane, and corn and the creation of pastureland for cattle raising, culminating in the drastic reduction in the extent of the savannah and, frequently, its ecological microclimates. The destruction of the gallery forests and the savannah proper, followed by wildfires, as well as indiscriminate collecting and illegal commerce, complete the devastating picture that will lead to the disappearance of our orchid habitats.

The visit to Brazil by George W. Bush, President of the USA (March 2007), when commercial agreements were discussed with the Brazilian government with a view to increasing production of sugar cane for making ethanol, the fuel of the future, will have as a disastrous consequence intensified deforestation associated with one-crop agriculture and also "slave labor". On the other hand, the burning of dry grass to facilitate the harvesting of sugar cane in the vast areas where it is grown is a practice that is extremely harmful to the environment. It is important to remember that the deforestation invariably associated with the wildfires has contributed to the frightening increase in global warming, although we know that the major villain contributing to that increase is coal, essential to the world economy: irrelevant in Brazil but devastating in its effect in China.

A considerable part of the foreign capital that feeds the Brazilian economy is used to buy ever more expensive areas in which to plant sugar cane and to acquire sugar mills and alcohol plants, at a rate never seen before. The feverish quest for ethanol, considered the factor that has caused the greatest economic transformation of agriculture in recent times, excites the rural producers, who have already begun to replace the traditional crops with sugar cane. Moreover, the production of ethanol from sugar cane and also from corn may upset the agricultural balance in the countries which have invested in that production, with an adverse effect on the problem of hunger in the poor nations. Farmers are already changing from livestock raising to sugar cane, using a more efficient and profitable growing method. In that way, ethanol, which appears to be the great viable alternative for the world as a substitute fossil fuel, is becoming a serious environmental threat. The Brazilian rain forest, wantonly plundered for many decades by illegal commercial lumbering, now awaits a new devastation, that is, deforestation in order to plant crops for the production of biofuels.

Regarding the disappearance of the orchid habitats, successful preservation of the sanctuaries of those marvelous plants depends exclusively on the zeal of the environmentalists and orchid hobbyists; the following steps must be taken:

- abolish the predatory practice of orchid collecting, by close supervision of the habitats, with everyone doing their duty, and with failure to do so implying collusion in the predatory process;
- zero demand for buying native plants offered to hobbyists by woodsmen and illegal orchid collectors;
- reintroduction of species into the habitats from which they were originally taken illegally;
- selective treatment within the populations with a view to genetic improvement of the species;
- creation of environmental conservation areas for specific habitats of *Cattleya nobilior* and *Cattleya walkeriana*.
- reduce human pressure on the habitats. Provide orchid collectors with a source of income through the in vitro production of plants, possibly leading to genetic improvement of the species, resulting in flowers of high quality from the standpoint of texture, color, and the way they present themselves. This will make removing plants from the habitats less attractive; *Laelia purpurata* is a spectacular example of what has happened in Brazil in that regard.

On the other hand, it is obvious that achievement of the goals set forth in the above-mentioned steps depends on setting up a program of environmental education for orchid hobbyist circles to enlighten their members and encourage them to do their duty as conservationists.

In spite of the creation of large protected areas by the Brazilian government, totaling 75,455,784 hectares, including 5,415,360 hectares of savannah biome, the preservation/conservation increases arithmetically while the depredation progresses geometrically. The great challenge is to balance development with preservation/conservation of the environment.

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*Editors note: Reprinted with the permission of the author,  
and thanks to Vickie Haskins for providing the text.*

## August Show and Tell Winners



DIVISION I 1st PLACE  
*Habenaria rhodocheila*  
Shown by: Steve Fischer

Deciduous plant. Terrestrial, requires a humus rich media, good drainage and a dry rest once the leaves have fallen. In spring, a repot into a fresh rich leaf-mold and soil mix plus some organic fertilizer will prompt strong new leaf growth and the apical flower spike of colorful flowers. *Habenaria rhodocheila* is an intermediate to warm grower.

DIVISION I 2nd PLACE  
Blc. Hausermann's Summerfest  
'Sultan',  
*Kencolorx C. guttata*  
HCC/AOS  
Shown by: Walter Prah

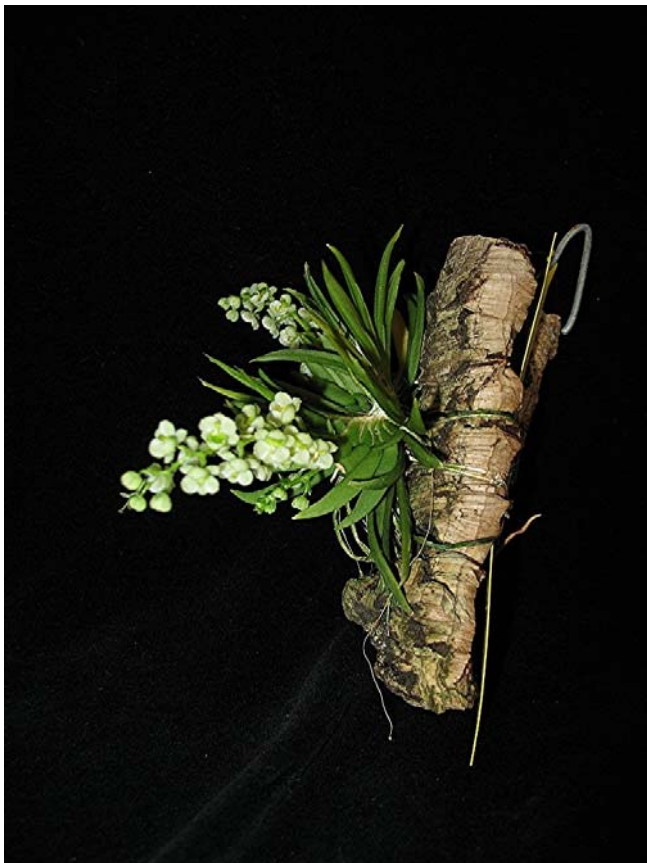
This very fragrant orchid thrives in intermediate temperatures in my greenhouse. It receives 55% shading and is fertilized weakly, weekly with one of about 6 different fertilizer formulations I use. Every third week I water heavily without fertilizer to wash out any excess salts that may be accumulating. It is planted in a one third coir to two thirds Dyna-Rock mix. Humidity is between 55 and 65 percent. Some thought the scent was cinnamon, some thought cloves but all agreed it had a spicy fragrance.



## MORE WINNERS

DIVISION I 3rd PLACE  
Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizazz'  
AM/AOS  
Shown by: Walter Prah

A brightly colored hybrid which enjoys the same growing conditions as 'Sultan' Not too fragrant but the stunning color contrasts of this orchid make it a standout in any collection



DIVISION II 1st PLACE  
Orinθοcephalus  
Iridifolius x Zygostates alleniana  
Shown by: Karen Bryan

This little primary hybrid out performs either parent and should quickly form a nice little specimen. Warm to Intermediate. .

## AND MORE WINNERS

### DIVISION II 2nd PLACE

Den. convolutum

Shown by: Marcia Santillanes

Plants bloom from late spring to early summer. They are found in the rain-forest of northern Papua and New Guinea at elevations of 0 to 650 meters. They grow in warm temperatures with medium amounts of light. Plant should be kept moist and fertilize during growth season, winter cut back on water. Grows in well drained mix.



### DIVISION III 1st PLACE

Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice,

Shown by: Kathy Mancini

This is a vigorous hybrid cross between longifolium and sargentanum producing strong tall spikes with many large flowers. This plant typically blooms once a year and the spikes can flower for a very long period. A very easy, fast growing plant which can tolerate a wide range of light and temperature conditions.