

Orchid Conservation Alliance Annual Report



Odontoglossum cirrhosum photographed in the Dracula Reserve, Ecuador



Dracula terborchii, photographed in the Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

Despite the pandemic, overall the Orchid Conservation Alliance has had a successful year. Similar to most years, the majority of our income has come from donations and memberships, with a small amount from other sources such as merchandise sales. Because of the pandemic, all of our Orchids in the Wild tours were cancelled and our usual revenue stream from the tours was negligible.

However, using some carryover funds from 2019, as well as donations from 2020, we were able to provide additional support to the Dracula reserve and the Ecominga Foundation (\$148,872) in Ecuador. By partnering (and thus getting matching funding) with the Rainforest Trust and the University of Basel Botanic Garden, our donations towards the Dracula Reserve expansion enabled the purchase of 975 acres of the Choco rainforest! We also did a special fundraising to provide food for several of the villages surrounding the Ecominga reserves in Ecuador (\$14,250) who had been severely impacted by the pandemic and

subsequent lockdown. It was a wonderful opportunity to show the local people that a reserve can provide an economic benefit to the surrounding community.

Income		Expenses	
Donations	95885	Reserves	148872
Memberships	19522	Ecuador families	14250
Merchandise	5071	Legal and accounting	4737
Trips	567	Insurance, office expenses, software	4025
		Marketing, website	5049

In 2020, the OCA spent 91% of the funds we receive from donors and memberships on our direct conservation work protecting orchid rich habitats, benefiting endangered species, and neighboring communities, among the highest percentages of any major conservation NGO. No board member receives financial benefit and we have no staff salaries.



Sobralia crocea, photographed growing next to the road near the Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

This year we welcomed two new additions to the Orchid Conservation Alliance team.

Roberta Fox

Roberta has taken over the role of Membership Chair, and will be working with the Directors to help expand our membership outreach. She has many years of experience in database management and we are really looking forward to her help with this essential component of the OCA.



Candy Hollinger



We hope you have noticed our uptick in social media posts, both on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We have Candy Hollinger to thank for that. Her experience and familiarity with these platforms will play an integral role as we work towards

expanding our membership base and help the orchid community to learn more about what the OCA is doing and how to support us.

The Ugliest Orchid

Perhaps appropriately for this strange year, the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew (RBG Kew) released a list of 156 new species including what they call the "ugliest orchid in the world," named by Kew as one of the "Top 10 species new to science in 2020." The story was picked up by news agencies across the globe, and the main photo in these articles was taken by OCA member Rick Burian, whose image was part of the scientific description. The orchid was discovered on the OCA Orchids in the Wild tour to Madagascar. Hopefully, the discovery and narrative will highlight the need for protection of orchids and orchid habitat, which is the heart and soul of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. How amazing that the OCA was at the center of the tale!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/my-drive>

Speakers Bureau

The pandemic brought about a new way to attend orchid meetings-virtually. The advent of Zoom, Go to Meeting and other web based platforms enabled orchid enthusiasts to attend seminars by orchid experts from the comfort of their couch! Moreover, because there is no travel involved, even societies that could not afford to pay the travel expenses of a speaker now had a broad selection of zoom based seminar speakers. The OCA board of directors, as well several of our enthusiastic members, now offer a number of presentations to orchid societies. All of the speaker fees are donated to the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

Speaker	Email	Topics
Steve Beckendorf	steve@orchidconservationalliance.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex, Lies and Parasites: Sexual Deception in Orchids • Lost and Found: Searching for Rare Orchids in Colombia • Why Are There So Many Orchids? • Making Orchid Reserves in the Andes
Mary Gerritsen	mary@orchidconservationalliance.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World • Miniature Orchids and How to Grow Them • Slippery Tales: Adventures of Hunting Slipper Orchids in the Wild • Hunting Orchids in Sulawesi • Hunting Orchids in Borneo • Orchids of the Lost World: Ascent of Mt. Roraima • Outdoor Orchids for Coastal California • Orchids of Chiapas • Orchids and Tribes of Papua New Guinea
Ron Kaufmann	ron@orchidconservationalliance.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving Orchids in the Wild • Diamonds in the Rough: The Orchids of Chapada Diamantina, Brazil • Life on the Rocks: The World of Rupicolous Orchids • Orchid Travels in Ecuador • Orchids at the Beach • Orchids of Tropical America • Searching for Orchids in Colombia • South American Slipper Orchids: Habitats and Conservation
Peter Tobias	peter@orchidconservationalliance.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving Orchids with the OCA: Let's Not Get Caught Napping
Debbie Halliday	debhallid@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchids for Indoors & Out-without a greenhouse • Orchid Care • Cattleya Repotting
Bill Loy	bloy1@san.rr.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting orchids on the Rio Negro with the OCA • Searching for orchids with the OCA in Southern Mexico from Palenque to El Triunfo.
Scott McGregor	p16@mcgregorfamily.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean-Climate Terrestrial Orchids of Europe and Australia (and how to grow them) • Pushing Limits (experiments with new species to grow outdoors) • In Search of Blue (blue color in orchids)



View of the flooded Amazon forest from the Otter, Orchids in the Wild tour to the Rio Negro, Brazil.



Angraecum lecomtei, photographed in situ (Orchids in the Wild tour to Madagascar)