



# Pan American Orchid Society

Founded in 1954 by a group of Pan American  
World Airways employees to share and  
expand their knowledge and love of orchids.




# PAOS News 2014



*Corybas himalaicus*, King and Pantling (Schltr)

## MAY Issue

From the President	2
From the Vice President	3
From the Editor	4
Meet an Orchid Hunter	5
This Month at PAOS /Last Month at PAOS	9
South Florida Orchid Scene	10
The Bulletin Board	12
April Ribbon Winners	13
PAOS Supporters	14



# PAOS News 2014

## May

## From the President

The Redland International Orchid Festival is coming. May 16, 17, and 18., and that's why you are receiving our newsletter a little earlier. Please check the volunteer schedule below.

Pan American will be selling beverages again this year in the Cola trailers. I would like to thank all of the members who signed up to sell beverages for us during the show.

If you would still like to volunteer, it's not too late, you can contact me at 305-582-9480.

I hope to see you at the show.

Please enjoy this month's newsletter. Many thanks to our Editor, Gio Lester, who has produced an excellent issue.

*Gail*

President

**NEXT MEETING**  
 Tuesday, May 20  
 at 7:00 p.m.  
Pinecrest Gardens  
 Hibiscus Room  
 11000 Red Road  
 Pinecrest, FL 33156



*Coelogyne stricta*, (D. Don) Schltr  
 by Naresh Swami

### Volunteers Schedule—Redland Int'd Orchid Festival 2014

Friday 5/16	Saturday 5/17	Sunday 5/18
<b>9-11:30</b> Bill Capps, Jean Tress, Candy McDonald, Lorraine Lee	<b>9-11:30</b> Bill Capps, Lorraine Lee, Susan Johnson, Gail Weber	<b>9-11:30</b> Bill Capps, Jim & Linda Wheeler, Lorraine Lee
<b>11:30-2 pm</b> Bill Capps, Jean Tress, Susan Johnson, Bill Harward	<b>11:30-2 pm</b> Catherine Pendlebury, Kammai Tyler, Javier Morejon, Gail Weber	<b>11:30-2 pm</b> Georgia Ruiz, Bill Capps, Shirley Berckmans
<b>2-4 pm</b> Bill Capps, Gene Stevens, Jennifer Brown (Standby)	<b>2-4 pm</b> Catherine Pendlebury, Kammai Tyler, Jennifer Brown, Gail Webber	<b>2-4 pm</b> Bill Capps, Joan Gerber, Jennifer Brown, David Foster



*Liparis nervosa* subsp. *Nervosa* by Naresh Swami

May

# PAOS News 2014



## From the Vice President

As discussed in our last newsletter in April and at our last monthly meeting, Amy Padolf, of Fairchild, has extended an invitation to PAOS to see the behind the scene efforts to reestablish endangered orchids back into the South Florida landscape.

There will be two field trips, one on May 30th and another on June 7th. Because we will be going through sensitive areas where space is limited, we were advised that no more than 12 persons per field trip were allowed. Our list for May 30th has 2 openings and the June trip is full. If you are now interested and would like to sign up for the May 30th trip, contact me at our next meeting on the 20th or via my email [gacruiz@aol.com](mailto:gacruiz@aol.com). If you would like to be on a waiting list for the June 7th trip in case someone cancels, contact me at the meeting or via email. Please indicate the date you would like. Names will be recorded based on the date you contact me.

Please note: Admission to the Gardens and the tour are free thanks to the generosity of Fairchild. However, PAOS membership dues must be paid up in order to attend.

I will be contacting everyone this weekend via telephone or email.

Sorry if you missed out on this field trip. We hope to be able to provide others in the upcoming months.

*Georgia*

Vice President

### **Trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens Rosters:**

#### **May 30 (two openings):**

1. Gail Weber
2. Gio Lester
3. Jean Tress
4. Carmen Segrera
5. Carlos Segrera
6. Candy McDonald
7. Joan Gerber
8. Patricia Hayes
9. Georgia Ruiz
10. Brenda Martinez
11. OPEN
12. OPEN

#### **June 7 (full) :**

1. Renate Van Kempema
  2. Bill Harward
  3. Bill Capps
  4. Carlos San Martin
  5. Nelia San Martin
  6. Joan Schmidt
  7. Lorraine Lee
  8. Joan Manley
  9. Melana Davison
  10. Jim Davison
  11. Jennifer Brown
  12. Sue Samuels
- FULL



# PAOS News 2014

May

## From the Editor

Dear Members and Friends,

We can't deny that technology has its disadvantages, but I believe the advantages far outweigh them. Our special feature is a result of technology—two fold.

I would not have met our special featured guest, Naresh Swami, were it not for Facebook and our love for orchids. After that, I proposed an interview and he was gracious enough to make himself available. His work is fascinating and I hope you will enjoy meeting him as much as I have.



*Sunipia cirrhata*, (Lindl.)  
P.F.Hunt by Naresh Swami

But before you go to the next page, remember our special commitment this month with the Redland International Orchid Festival.

If you have signed up to volunteer, we thank you for helping PAOS grow; those who cannot volunteer, should still make an effort to come and enjoy the beauties that brought us together and the delightful setting of the Fruit and Spice Park.

Speaking of orchids, what with the unusually dry weather? It doesn't matter how often I water my plants, their thirst never seems to be quenched. For those of us who love vandas and their family, it can be specially hard. I feel like keeping mine in a bucket, but then I fear the water might get too hot... And we need to be specially attentive because of mites under these conditions.

If you have questions about how to handle the weather and watering needs of your plants, refer to Martin Motes monthly newsletter "In Your Orchid Collection." The publication provides a very localized guide for the South Floridian orchid buff. Signing up to receive your copy is easy, just send a message to [martin.motes@gmail.com](mailto:martin.motes@gmail.com).

Happy reading!

Gio  
Editor



*Phaius mishmensis*, Lindl & Parton by  
Naresh Swami

May

# PAOS News 2014



## Meet a Modern Orchid Hunter

When we think orchids the image that comes to mind most often is that of rain forests, heat and humidity – you get the picture. I personally do not associate the word “Himalayas” with orchids. Better yet, didn't, that is, until I met Naresh Swami online a few weeks ago.

Naresh is an orchid hunter. He holds what I consider to be one of the most beautiful and most interesting jobs ever. As a Research Associate at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment ([ATREE](#)), he is re-documenting the orchids mentioned in [Sir George King and Robert Pantling](#)'s work “The Orchids of Sikkim-Himalayas” published 1898. Naresh also maintains a page on [Facebook](#) where he showcases the beautiful flowers he encounters and a research documentation blog (<http://naresh.org.in/blog/>).



*Calanthe alpina*, Hook.f. ex Lindl by Naresh Swami

I had the pleasure of engaging in an exchange with Naresh at the [American Orchid Society Facebook](#) page. The photos he publishes are breathtaking. Then I found out about his work and he graciously accepted my invitation to be interviewed for PAOS News.



*Trichotosia dasyphylla*, E C Parish & Rehb by Naresh Swami

**PAOSNews**—Naresh, thank you for accepting my invitation for this interview. My first question is how did you land this job?

From 2007 onwards, with my studies on Plants and Trees mentioned in the Vedas and Puranas, I was traveling through the North Eastern states of India to locate and study various plants and trees. The mention of several orchids in the ancient scriptures got my attention. Luckily during those study periods I was able to locate many orchids from those states including those mentioned in the Vedas and Puranas, as well as other rare species. After the completion of that work, I decided to look out for more orchid species of the whole region - the Eastern Himalayas, initially focusing on the botanically concentrated area commonly known as the Sikkim-Himalayas tract.

**PN**—What are the risks involved in orchid hunting in the Himalayas in 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

Every new exploration is like an adventure which involves an element of risk. The question of risk is a matter of perception entirely depending upon the individual's mindset. After all, it is the achievement at the end of the road that matters, eventually. In this case, they are environmental, geographical and political.

Many upper regions of Sikkim-Himalayas are devoid of any communication systems or transport thus making travel and continuous living in those regions unsustainable. Frequent and unpredictable landslides particularly during the monsoons season when heavy downpours invariably trigger landslides with road blockades stranding those working in those areas for several weeks without even basic amenities. Also the strategic border location of the region warrants several permissions from various governmental agencies to conduct visits, making the area inaccessible to many people.



# PAOS News 2014

May

## Meet a Modern Orchid Hunter—cont'd

**PN**—*What are the parallels between your work and that of Sir George King and Mr. Robert Pantling?*

Besides the content, orchids of a specific Himalayan region, not much really. Technology has seen to that.

For the monumental publication, "The Orchids of the Sikkim-Himalaya", published in the year 1898, the authors Sir George King and Robert Pantling at which time the former was the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta and the latter Deputy Superintendent of the Government Cinchona Plantation, Pantling conducted his program with a trained group of indigenous Lepcha tribes of the region as collectors, which was most suitable chores ingrained in their character as hunter-gatherers and to whom detecting and collecting orchids in the wild regions was in fact only natural. The specimens were brought down to the work place in Cinchona station, where they were studied and illustrated.



Neottianthe calcicola, W W Smith by Naresh Swami

Utmost care was observed in the drawings from fresh specimens, though lack of connectivity and remoteness of the area resulted in time delays that cause several specimens to wither before their arrival at the study table. This factor has been acknowledged by the authors themselves and the same regrettably been pointed out for any discrepancy in accuracy, particular in reference to the exact colorations.

This present work is simply an undertaking for the re-documentation in photography of orchids in their natural habitats using technically suitable advanced photographic gadgets. The work is being done with the latest digital photography and lighting techniques to produce better results to help further studies. The identification of each species is much more accurate when seen in their earliest blooming period. The present documentation is undertaken precisely in situ with the flowers in bloom. This program is planned to make a comparative study of the present characteristics of each species with the type of those same species documented in the findings of Sir George King and Robert Pantling.

**PN**—*I remember from historical accounts that plants were sometimes destroyed in order for drawings to be made or that they did not survive the sudden change in habitat. A lot has changed, and I wonder what is the impact of technology in orchid hunting?*

The use of the latest communication and information technologies has produced amazing results in my current work. It is worth pointing out the circumstances that led to the re-discovery of *Corybas himalaicus*, King and Pantling (Schltr) **[Editor's Note: featured on our cover]**. The plant was described by Sir George King and Robert Pantling in their monumental book more than a century ago. After that, even though several



Galeola lindleyana, Reichb by Naresh Swami—the tallest ever recorded in the region

May

# PAOS News 2014



## Meet a Modern Orchid Hunter—cont'd

authors described it, no one was able to produce a photograph, thus pointing to the conclusion that no one had found the species outside its natural habitat. King and Pantling mentioned its habitat as "on a moist vertical rock at an elevation of 9000 ft". The advances in satellite imageries helped me scan the whole area at the altitude of 9000 ft to find the same vertical rock with ease and locate the species. The area was deep inside a dense forest with high population of Himalayan bears preventing any human movement. Pinpointing the exact location helped made my dislocation in that area very easy. Also the latest technologies in the field of digital photography will certainly help to produce high resolution photographs of plants and flowers which will help further studies without collecting specimens, thus helping the plant population itself.



Bulbophyllum penicillium, C.S.P. Parish and Rchb.f by Naresh Swami



Epipogium aphyllum, Swartz by Naresh Swami

**PN**—*Of the orchids you have re-discovered, which one was the most elusive, which one the most colorful and which one would you have liked to take home with you?*

It is a very interesting question; to pin point one species will be very difficult. The region has many colorful and attractive orchid species.

The title of most elusive could go to Epipogium aphyllum, Swartz (nicknamed The Ghost Orchid). That is was re-discovered in the Eastern Himalayas after a gap of more than 120 years is a source of great delight to me. This species can survive underground for many years and spurts up only to produce flowers, what makes it very difficult to spot.

The orchids in this region are very colorful and attractive. However, I suggest you see Corybas himalaicus, King and Pantling (Schltr), and I believe you will agree with me. I feel this is the most beautiful species of the region.

As to the last part of the question, I'd prefer to make my home in the region between all these orchid species rather than taking them home with me.

**PN**—*Sir George's work documented 449 orchids, while yours has reached 512 species and covered over 21000 km of terrain. How big is the territory you set out to research and do you expect to discover more new plants?*

The area of Sikkim-Himalayas includes the District of Darjeeling in the State of West Bengal and the state of Sikkim. Together they constitute around 10200 square km. Till now my re-documentation work produced documentary evidences of 516 species of orchids, including 38 re-discoveries, several new reports to the region as well as to the botanical world. The new reports include several high altitude species, which broke



# PAOS News 2014

May

## Meet a Modern Orchid Hunter—cont'd

the exciting altitude record of high growing species of the world. The identification and naming of probable new species is a long process, which include opinions of all stakeholders worldwide. That process is underway with many new discoveries and will come to a conclusion by the end of the work.

In the last 900 days of my work, close to 21900 km were covered on foot, surveying areas from the hot tropical valleys to the high peaks in the alpine zone. It is to be assumed that by the end of this year another 50 to 60 species will be added to the whole list of species, making this work an all time historic work on orchids of the region.



*Dendrobium longicornu*, Lindl by Naresh Swami

### PN—*What keeps you going, what is your motivation?*

As per Hindu mythology, the Himalayas are the abode of the Lord. The grace and blessings of those sacred hills provide me the strength to work in those difficult and inhospitable terrains. The dedication and determination to provide new information to the scientific world motivates me to undertake this hard work every day.

*We would like to thank you very much and look forward to reading your final report. And I invite our readers to further their delight by visiting the pages below.*



*Zeuxine affinis*, (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. by Naresh Swami

**Meet Naresh Swami:** Born in an aristocratic Brahmin Family in the year 1980. Following the tradition of family priesthood responsibilities, he was ordained as temple priest at a very young age. Voracious desire to learn and read books made him excel in studies, and go on to attain two doctoral degrees in two diverse fields – the first on Butterflies, and the second on Plants and trees mentioned in Vedas and Puranas. His patience and love for winged creations brought out thousands of wonderful findings of butterflies from the Nandadevi biosphere. The priesthood responsibilities made him familiar with most of the Hindu scriptures and helped him reveal the history and significance of plants and trees mentioned in the Vedas and Purana. Currently, working in the Himalayas on orchids of the region.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOrchidsOfSikkimHimalayas>

Blog: <http://naresh.org.in/blog/>

Blog: <http://naresh.org.in>

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment: <http://atree.org>

American Orchid Society on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/>

Other works on the subject: <http://sikkim.nic.in/bifsikkim/database/orchid.html>



# PAOS News 2014

## May

## This Month at PAOS

Our speaker this month is Wojciech “Woji” Klikunas. Woji has been an AOS judge since 1979. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Cincinnati Judging Center and is currently the Vice Chair of the Florida-Caribbean Judging Center.

If you have ever wondered about the criteria used for all the different award categories, this would be a perfect opportunity to learn about the evaluation process for orchids.

Woji is a retired Clinical Psychologist and has also taught Psychology at Miami-Dade College. He lives in Miami with his wife and 12 spayed and neutered cats that run their household.

Woji will be bringing five different *Cattleya* species in pots as part of our raffle table.

See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Georgia*

Vice President



*Androcorys pugioniformis*, Lindl ex. Hook - the highest growing species of the region, found at an altitude of 15696 ft by Naresh Swami



*Phalaenopsis manni*, Rchb.f. by Naresh Swami

## Last Month at PAOS



On April we heard from Larry Cox, and his undying love for paphiopedilums. Larry provided beautiful plants —paphs and cattaleys—for our raffle table, most of them in bloom!

Our members enjoyed the active Q&A session following Larry’s presentation and all the new knowledge on how to care for these beauties.

May

# PAOS News 2014



## South Florida Orchid Scene

**Orchid Mania Event**—May 24 – 25, 2014 Our 16th Annual Orchids in the Park fundraiser to benefit Project Cradle, a program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Department of Pediatric Infectious Disease and Immunology, that provides assistance to children and young adults living with HIV/AIDS. Orchids in the Park will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Dante Fascell Park in South Miami, 8600 SW 57th Ave (Red Road) You'll find great plants, great prices and help a great cause. Visa/Mastercard, cash and checks (w/proper identification) will be accepted. If you don't have a green thumb, or growing orchids is not easy for you, stop by and say hello any way. You can make a tax deductible donation during your visit and enjoy all the beautiful plants while helping a worthy cause.

**Orchid Society of Coral Gables** will be holding its annual auction. Another can't-miss event for South Florida orchid lovers. Visit their site for further details.

*Cont'd on page 10*

The Orchid Society of Coral Gables  
cordially invites you to our

## *Annual Orchid Auction*

Tuesday, June 3, 2014  
Preview 6:45 pm  
Auction 7:15 pm

Orchids of all types, from growers and hobbyists  
across the country!  
Blooming plants, specie, divisions, seedlings, and flasks.

***A great place for a great bargain!***

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Road  
South Entrance, Garden Room

Call 305-666-0053  
for more information



# PAOS News 2014

## May

### South Florida Orchid Scene – cont'd



**America's Favorite  
Orchid Festival**  
*plan now to attend*  
THE  
18th ANNUAL  
REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL  
2014

**FRI - SUN \* MAY 16th - 18th,  
9:00AM - 5:00PM**  
at the  
**REDLAND FRUIT & SPICE PARK**  
24801 SW 187 AVE.  
HOMESTEAD, FL ([Directions](#))

**ADMISSION ONLY \$10, KIDS 12 AND UNDER FREE**  
[See our photo gallery](#)

**WOW!** Weekend pass, only \$25  
Admittance for all three days  
Available at all park ticket locations on Friday.

SEE MORE AT [WWW.REDLANDORCHIDFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.REDLANDORCHIDFESTIVAL.ORG)

<p>The Redland Orchid Festival Strongly Encourages All Those Attending the Festival to</p> <p><b>TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE PARKING</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOW THE SIGNS AS YOU APPROACH THE PARK MAIN ENTRANCE</b></p>	<p><b>COME &amp; ENJOY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Sales by 60 World-Class Orchid Nurseries from 16 Countries &amp; the U.S.A.</li> <li>* Benched Show: Judging by American Orchid Society</li> <li>* Orchid Supplies</li> <li>* Orchid Arts, Crafts, &amp; Apparel</li> <li>* Domestic &amp; International Foods</li> <li>* Lectures by Orchid Experts (English &amp; Spanish)</li> </ul>
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May

# PAOS News 2014



Visit our website to stay abreast of orchid related events in South Florida. You can find us at [www.panamorchids.com](http://www.panamorchids.com) and the calendar is under "Orchid Scene"

Guests are welcome!

**Tuesday, May 20**  
Pinecrest Gardens  
 Hibiscus Room  
 11000 Red Road  
 Pinecrest, Fl 33156

**Refreshments Team for May 20**  
 Joan Gerber, Sherrin Smith, Anne Schaerli, Cathy Pariser, Pat Hayes, Linda Wheeler and Lorraine Lee.  
 Thank you!

PAOS News is the monthly newsletter of the **PanAmerican Orchid Society**, affiliated with the **American Orchid Society**

**President:** Gail Weber    **1st Vice president:** Georgia Ruiz

**Editor:** Gio Lester    **Photos:** Naresh Swami

**Contributors:** Gail Weber, Shirley Berckmans, Georgia Ruiz



# PAOS News 2014

May

APRIL  
RIBBON WINNERS

**First Place**

- Dendrobium superbum David Foster
- Dendrobium Little Sweet Scent David Foster
- Iwanagara Apple Blossom Ernest Garcia
- Dendrobium Green Lantern (probably Den. Little Green Apples) Renate Van Kempema
- Dendrobium spectabile Renate Van Kempema
- Ascocentum miniatum Jim Wheeler
- Encyclia cochleata Jim Wheeler

**Second Place**

- Phal. Mini Mark Jim Wheeler



Cypripedium himalaicum, Rolfe by Naresh Swami



Esmeralda clarkei, Rchb.f. by Naresh Swami

May

# PAOS News 2014



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