



# *New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter*

June  
2014

## June Program

Our guest speaker for our **June 8<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be **Alan Koch** of Gold Country Orchids. His topic is Species Habitat and Hybrid Culture; "this program teaches novice and advanced growers to link how a species grows in the wild, as to how to grow it and the hybrids from it in your collection. Program is strong on orchid cultures and helps everyone to be a better orchid grower. Bring a notepad so you can remember all the information given in this program."

In 1978 Alan and Cheryl Koch opened Koch Orchids in Newbury Park, California. At this location they concentrated on orchids that could grow outdoors in California and some Cattleyas. Soon the Cattleyas became the major interest and started to require more greenhouse space. A 16 x 30 foot greenhouse and two 10 x 60 foot lath houses were soon outgrown and a new location was needed. In 1983 the move was made to Northern California. With the move, a new name was in order and Koch Orchids soon became Gold Country Orchids. For two years they leased greenhouse space in the Sacramento Valley, and in 1985 purchased 10 acres in Lincoln, California where they are today. They now have 3 modern greenhouses with rolling benches and computer controls to house the orchids. With 16,000 square feet of growing area and three climate zones they have plenty of room for all of the lovely plants.



Alan Koch photo courtesy of Matthew Bond

ALAN IS ACCEPTING PRE ORDERS TO BE DELIVERED AT THE MEETING.

SEE INFORMATION REGARDING PRE ORDERS AND SELECTIONS FROM THE LIMITED AVAILABILITY LIST ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER.

Our next regular meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Garden Center

June 8, 2014  
at 1:30 PM

The Albuquerque Garden Center is located at 10120 Lomas Blvd NE Just West of Eubank on the South Side of Lomas In Los Altos Park

As always please bring a snack to share

Members are encouraged to wear their membership badges

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Orchidelirium Photos

Our **Growers Forum** meets at **1 PM** prior to our regular monthly meeting. This month the topic is watering your orchids. It will be a "hands on" program Please join us on Sunday, June 8th

## President's Message

### June 2014

Orchidelirium is now a fond distant memory !

I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the many volunteers who planned, prepared and executed such a successful show. Special thanks to our guest speaker, **Carol Siegel**, for her educational and entertaining talk. Thanks to **Annie Fedora** and her creative staff at A Taste of the Wild catering for our strolling buffet in the aquarium. Thanks to **Catherine Hubbard** and her great BioPark staff for all their help. Without them.....we would not/could not do this.

Congratulations to all the ribbon winners and the Bests of Show winners:

**Mable Orndorff** for her Brazilian Rainforest arrangement, **Albuquerque BioPark Botanic Garden/Melissa Garcia** for Favorite Orchid, *Dendrobium anosmum*, **Melissa Garcia** for the Roger Easton Award, **Ellie Sokolow** for best photograph and **Bonny Buckley** for best painting.

Special acknowledgement to the AOS award winners: Jane Cole an HCC for *Paph hainanense*, Ron Midgett an Award of Merit for Lc Ann Akagi, and Vickie Haskins a Rocky Mountain Special award for *Tolumnia variegata* var. white

If you have suggestions to help make the 2015 show a better experience, I would like to hear from you. Please email your comments to me at [orchidsinabq@gmail.com](mailto:orchidsinabq@gmail.com)

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Alan is offering a 20% discount on pre orders received by the morning of **June 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please email [gcorchids@aol.com](mailto:gcorchids@aol.com) or call Alan at 916-645-8600. The web site may be "under construction" so please do not enter your orders on line. I have attached a limited availability list to this newsletter. This list also qualifies for the 20% discount.

**There will not be a July meeting of NMOG.**

**Glen Decker** of Piping Rock Orchids will be our guest at the **August 10th** meeting. Watch your email for pre order opportunities.

See you on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Keith



Jane Cole with Paph hainanense



Paph hainanense HCC 78 pts

The New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter  
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 Please visit our website  
 www.nmog.org

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**GROWER ON CALL**

Any board member would be pleased to help you with your questions on growing. A listing of board members and their contact information can be found on this page .

# Mamie Eisenhower a Big Fan of Cattleya Orchids

Having won the greatest war of the 20th century, President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953 ushered in eight years of calm and stability — and in the process opened the golden age of cattleya orchids.

First Lady Mamie Eisenhower was the symbol of prosperity and elegance, and she loved cattleyas. She was rarely seen in public without her corsage of two or three cattleya flowers.



Her love for cattleyas was so obvious that the Rod McLellan Co. of California named an orchid after her. This was only the second time that a U.S. first lady had been honored with a namesake cattleya. Lou Henry Hoover's orchid was registered in 1929.

In the 1950s, cattleya corsages were worn to nearly every social event: dinners, luncheons, afternoon teas, the theater, opera and high school dances.

Nurseries had trouble keeping up with the demand — and many fortunes were made in the industry. Spring is especially busy with floral holidays: Easter, Mother's Day, proms and June weddings. In selecting a cattleya for Eisenhower, McLellan chose a floriferous spring bloomer with a pedigree parentage.

The first World Orchid Conference was held in 1954 in St Louis. Rod McLellan was a speaker. He noted that corsages are always in fashion — “as a wristlet, on a handbag, on the shoulder or at the waist, and sometimes in the hair.” He was further promoting cut orchids for use in flower arrangements for every room of the house.

The Rod McLellan Co., nicknamed “Acres of Orchids,” was a tremendous operation. Located in San Francisco, one greenhouse held 200,000 cattleya seedlings. The flasking house was filled with countless sterilized glass bottles and had its own superintendant, geneticist and laboratory technicians. The extensive catalog featured over 100 new cattleya hybrids, a line of custom potting materials, including Supersoil and Wonderbark, and every imaginable accessory.

In 1955, McLellan ran full-page advertisements for the Lc Mamie Eisenhower in both the American Orchid Society Bulletin and the Orchid Digest magazine. The plant was glamorously portrayed in a painting by artist Naomi Sandl. The wording of the ad was quite flattering. “This outstanding lavender hybrid with a rich purple lip is so charming we named it in honor of our gracious First Lady (with Mrs. Eisenhower's permission).”

McLellan continued with their purple breeding lines by combining Lc Mamie Eisenhower with such established species as *C intermedia*, *C mossiae*, *C labiata* and *B digbyana*. Lc Mamie Eisenhower was an outstanding display plant as well as a prolific stud. McLellan thought highly of its first lady hybrid and charged as much as \$75 for select varieties — a hefty sum at a time when gasoline was 29 cents a gallon.

Mamie loved to entertain and was a popular hostess. Her specialty was holiday parties, for which she had the White House decorated in the appropriate theme.

What will be remembered about Mamie Eisenhower within the orchid community is her true love for cattleya flowers. She glamorized cattleya corsages. Her namesake orchid, Lc Mamie Eisenhower, was a prominent hybrid for its time and, although rare today, remains a historical treasure.

Arthur Chadwick is president of Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc. You may send questions to 1240 Dorset Road, Powhatan, Va. 23139, (804) 598-7560 or by email at [infor@chadwickorchids.com](mailto:infor@chadwickorchids.com). Previous columns are on his website, [www.chadwickorchids.com](http://www.chadwickorchids.com)

# Esperance's Elusive Underground Orchid

Critically endangered and living in highly secretive underground locations; these are not plotlines to a dramatic hostage movie but some facts about the mysterious underground orchid.

Discovered near Corrigin in May 1928, the underground orchid is the only flora of its kind in Western Australia and only one of three species found in Australia.

Other underground orchids are found in New South Wales and Queensland.

According to the Department of Environment and Conservation each plant produces up to 100 small inward facing red coloured flowers, surrounded by six to 12 large cream or pink bracts.

The bracts form a tulip like head that curves over the flowers leaving a small opening at the soil surface, which is then covered by leaf and bark litter.

DEC Esperance district conservation officer Julie Waters said the discovery was made by chance during land clearing.

"The underground orchid is known from about 80 plants in six different locations, it's very rare and very hard to find," she said.

"It grows entirely underground underneath broom bush thickets, the original discovery was when they were clearing land for farming and they ploughed it up and thought 'hmmm what's that funny looking thing?'"

After its discovery the flower was found six more times up until 1959 and then wasn't seen again until 1979 near Munglinup, 300km south of previous known locations.

"To find the underground orchid, even where we know it is, we wait until it's flowering (late May or early June) and then go crawling underneath the broom thicket and lift the leaf litter up and see the flowers under there," she said.

"It's very sensitive to getting trampled over so that's why the known populations that we've got are highly secretive.

"If we have a look and do some surveys we have to cover the plants back up so they don't dry out, it's a very weird plant."

Unlike other flowers, the underground orchid doesn't get its energy from the sun through photosynthesis. The plant feeds on fungi that forms between the broom bush thickets and the flower.

It is believed that small burrowing animals spread the orchid's seeds by eating the flower.

Like all WA flora, the underground orchid is placed in a ranking system.

"Because this plant has around 84 individuals, that automatically puts it in the critically endangered category," Ms Waters said.

The DEC have a number of recovery actions in place to protect the plant, including research into what the underground orchid needs to thrive, fire management and fencing off reservations to protect its habitat.

*ABC Esperance By Rebecca Brewin*



## 2014 Roger Easton Award Winner



Melissa Garcia and Dendrobium Anosum



One of the orchids species with a powerful fragrance is *Dendrobium anosmum* (syn. *Dendrobium superbum*). "Anosmum" means without scent in Latin. This species is native to New Guinea, the Phillipines and north to Sri Lanka and Thailand. The long slender pseudobulbs are said to grow to 3 meters (nearly 10 feet) in length. When well grown in a pot, the pseudobulbs can easily reach five to six feet. This species has lavender flowers that have two burgundy spots on either side of the lip towards the inner base. The fragrance of these flowers can be overpowering to some people. It smells like raspberry, strawberry, rhubarb, or hyacinth, depending upon one's imagination. Even the dried up flowers keep the fragrance for a while.

ORCHIDELIRIUM PHOTOS COURTESY OF MABLE ORNDORFF

