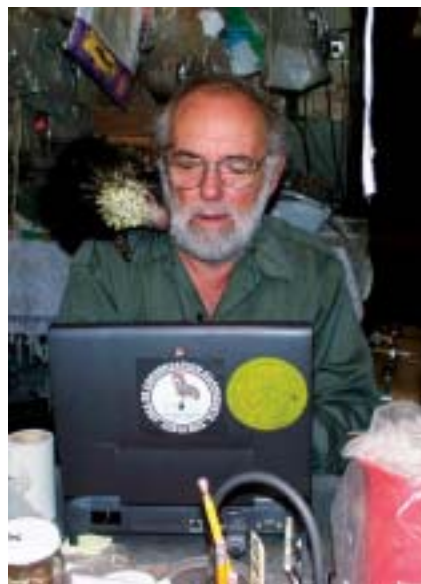


Special Report/Dan Janzen to Address Conservation Congress in Costa Rica



WINNIE HALLWACHS

ABOVE Dan Janzen, PhD, who will be the keynote speaker for the 3rd International Orchid Conservation Congress.

THE keynote speaker for the 3rd International Orchid Conservation Congress, to be held in San José, Costa Rica from March 19–24, 2007 will be Daniel H. Janzen, an inspirational figure in the world of conservation who has made an enormous impact on tropical biology. According to the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, he is “one of the most creative and productive scientists of this century.”

An evolutionary ecologist, naturalist and conservationist, Janzen divides his time between the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and his research and fieldwork in Costa Rica, where he is an *ad honorem* technical advisor for two key long-term projects, the Area de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) and the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio). Tropical dry forests are the world’s most endangered

forest ecosystems, and Janzen has campaigned tirelessly to protect and restore the dry forests of Costa Rica that make up the Area de Conservación Guanacaste — with a total area covering 550 square miles (1,430 sq km) probably the oldest, largest and most successful habitat restoration project in the world. INBio (the Costa Rican National Biodiversity Institute) has taken on the task of inventorying, cataloging and describing this modest Central American country’s enormous ecological riches for its conservation and sustainable use, working on the premise that the best way to conserve biodiversity is to study it, value it and utilize the opportunities it offers to improve the quality of life of human beings. The Guanacaste Conservation Area contains one of Costa Rica’s few remaining populations of *Guarianthe* (syn. *Cattleya*) *skinneri*, known as the *guaria morada* and Costa Rica’s much beloved national flower.

Captivated by a two-month field course in tropical biology in Costa Rica as a student, Janzen returned as an instructor for the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), and has taught in at least one of the three annual courses each year. With more than 300 papers and book chapters on tropical ecology, biodiversity and tropical conservation to his credit, Janzen’s scientific output is truly amazing. Through his continuous association with OTS Janzen has been in close contact with, and influenced the thinking and ideas of, just about every researcher and student of tropical ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere during the last 40 years.

Janzen has a reputation as being a lively and stimulating lecturer, and his opening talk will focus on general and realistic approaches to conservation.

Information about the congress is on line at www.jardinbotanicolankester.org. — Philip Seaton, 52 Shrubbery Street,

“No one working in the tropics can be unaware of orchids; I have been doing tropical biology since 9th grade in 1953. They are not only everywhere, but they are horribly frustrating because while they are everywhere, they are also almost always in a vegetative state and therefore largely not identifiable by mere mortals. They also stand out by being one of the plants that almost no one eats. To the caterpillar biologist that I am, greenery that is largely uneaten is always interesting. And then all those quite ridiculous flower forms (combined with quite boring fruit forms) cannot escape the attention of any kind of biologist. And I am one of those people who can watch half-drunk male orchid bees tumbling around *Catasetum* flowers for hours, and who gets periodically investigated by a green iridescent ray of light, otherwise known as an *Euglossa* orchid bee, to see if it would be neat to build a resin nest inside a fold of my shirt. So my interests in orchids is general, and while I am not an orchid nut or fancier, I am someone who is deluged by their somewhat peculiar omnipresence in the huge masses of wild Neotropical biodiversity that I would dearly love to see still be with us 1,000 years from now.” — Dan Janzen, PhD.

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