

3rd INTERNATIONAL ORCHID



CONSERVATION CONGRESS

concomitant with

II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEOTROPICAL ORCHIDOLOGY

19th to 24th March, 2007 - San José, Costa Rica

Preceded by the Costa Rican National Orchid Show - March 15-18, 2007

NATIONAL ORCHID SHOW AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS

XXXVI NATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

ASOCIACIÓN COSTARRICENSE DE ORQUIDEOLOGÍA (A.C.O.)
(Costa Rican Society of Orchidology)

15th to 18th March, 2007 - San José, Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Society of Orchidology (A.C.O.) will hold its XXXVI National Orchid Show from March 15th to March 18th, 2006. The show will take place in the old workshops of the Pacific Railroad Station and display the collections of over 20 local and regional orchid societies in Costa Rica. A commercial area will have orchids and orchid-related products for sale. For those interested in purchasing plants, we will inform you at a later date which nurseries will have plants available with all necessary permits to be exported.

The National Orchid Show will officially open at 7:00 PM on March 15th with a formal program followed by a cocktail. All participants of the III IOCC are welcome to attend the opening of the show. The admission fee is included in the registration fee to the Congress.

The admission fee to the Orchid Show on March 16th-18th is also included in the registration fee to the Congress. The Pacific Railroad Station is located about 2 miles from the Congress hotel (about 10 minutes by taxi, cost approximately: US \$3.00).

III IOCC INAUGURATION COCKTAIL

An inauguration cocktail will be presented on Monday, March 19, by the Organizing Committee to all participants and special guests after the inauguration ceremony and presentations by our keynote speakers. The cocktail will be held at the hotel Tryp Corobicí. No special dress code is required.

Good company, old friends, local music and South American wines will make this the perfect way to start our Congress.

The Inauguration cocktail is included in the registration fee.

III IOCC GALA DINNER

Our Gala Dinner will be held on Friday, March 23, at the Hotel Tryp Corobicí. At the dinner, congress registrants will have an opportunity to bid farewell to new and long-standing friends. Those registrants who will participate in our field trip to Bosque de Paz on March 24 will have another opportunity to bid farewell to friends.

Again, no formal dress code is required, although most gentlemen will wear a tie.

The Gala Dinner is also included in the registration fee.

III INTERNATIONAL ORCHID CONSERVATION CONGRESS
FIELD TRIP TO TAPANTÍ NATIONAL PARK
Wednesday, March 21st, 2007

The buses for the Field Trip will leave at 8:00 a.m. from the hotel. All costs (transportation, admission to the National Park and lunch) are included in the registration fee. The walk through the park will be led by expert guides from Lankester Botanical Garden, under the direction of the eminent Dr. Robert L. Dressler and Prof. Franco Pupulin. Don't miss it!

Tapantí National Park, with 15,000 acres and the greatest amount of rain and cloud cover in the country, is located in the eastern Central Valley in Costa Rica, 20 kms (13 miles) southeast of the city of Cartago. Because of its geographic position in the northeastern (or Caribbean) slope of the Talamanca Mountain Range, where it lies at an altitude of between 1,200 and 1,500 meters above sea level, and the clouds from the sea that enter along the canyon of the Reventazón River, this park records annually up to 8,000 mm (315 inches) of rain in certain areas, distributed throughout the year and with a relatively dryer season during the months of March and April. The rivers rush down the steep slopes, feeding a vast network of waterways that belong to the River Grande de Orosi and are used to generate hydroelectric energy.

In such a steep and rainy natural environment the trees do not need to put down deep roots in order to get water, and they are easy victims of landslides and tremors, which are frequent in this river basin with avalanches of mud and rocks. Usually the branches and crowns are not large, and it is frequent to see how the upper level of trees consists of an irregular canopy of medium height. On the other hand, these climatic conditions support the development of a wealth of epiphytes (like bromeliads, orchids and mosses), palms, heliconias, bamboo stands and tree ferns. Higher up, at altitudes above 2,500 meters, the landscape is dominated by large oaks and the forest floor is more open.

This region of excessively damp climates, which range from hot to cool with average temperatures between 19,5° and 12,5° C. provides shelter for many vertebrates, the most distinctive being the resplendent quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), toucans, hummingbirds, hand-tailed pigeons, Neotropical river otters, white nosed coatis, collared peccaries, silky anteaters, howler monkeys and three-toed sloths. Endangered species, such as the tapir, jaguar, ocelot, tiger cat and jaguarundi also find a protective habitat in the park.

Among the rich orchid flora of the park you can observe many species of the subtribe *Pleurothallidinae*, as well as *Epidendrum* and *Maxillaria*, *Oncidium*, *Elleanthus* and *Sobralia*.