

3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORCHID



CONSERVATION CONGRESS

concomitant with

## II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEOTROPICAL ORCHIDOLOGY

19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 - San José, Costa Rica

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

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### FIELD TRIPS

#### III INTERNATIONAL ORCHID CONSERVATION CONGRESS

##### FIELD TRIP TO TAPANTÍ NATIONAL PARK

Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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. Dressler. 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*.

## OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP TO “BOSQUE DE PAZ”

**Date:** Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Departing 8:30 a.m. from main entrance of Hotel Tryp Corobicí

**Cost:** USD \$45.00 per person. Friend or spouses of participants are welcome! The fee includes transportation by bus, entrance to the preserve, guided tour, lunch and visit to Sarchí.

**Destination:** “Bosque de Paz” “Forest of Peace”. More details at

<http://www.bosquedepaz.com/>

Bosque de Paz is a privately-owned Biological Preserve on the northern slope of Costa Rica’s Central Volcanic Range. We will drive up into the mountains over a 6,000 ft high pass and descend into the beautiful valley of the Toro Amarillo River. After a guided tour through the preserve, with hundreds of orchid species to be seen in their natural environment, we will be offered a typical Costa Rican lunch.

In the afternoon, on our drive back to San José, we will stop at the small town of Sarchí. Sarchí is the major craft-making center of Costa Rica. The small town is divided by the Trojas River into north and south quarters and stretches for several kilometers/miles. The main plaza in Sarchí Norte (North Sarchí) features a twin-towered church, some restaurants and a few accommodations.

The main reason to visit Sarchí is for the crafts that are generally carved out of local, natural woods. Artisans can be observed carving and painting wooden ox-carts, carving boards and unique wooden jewelry. Several furniture factories are also found in Sarchí. An ideal place to buy souvenirs!

Arrival in San José at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**This field trip is limited to a maximum of 80 participants, so register as soon as possible!**