



Meet Marianne

I was asked to give a little info on my background so in an attempt not to get boring, I'll try to give the short version. I was born and raised in Denmark. Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in my early twenties and was posted to New Delhi, India, shortly after. While in India I met my husband (on a soccer field playing for the British High Commission team), who at the time was finishing medical school. He was born and raised in Egypt, his father was a general and later became a diplomat, and after a post to New York, where my husband attended his last year of high school, the family transferred to India. I worked at the Royal Danish Embassy in New Delhi for about three years, after which we both moved to New York City. Obtaining legal status was another long and slightly complicated story. I ended up working at the Danish Tourist Board in New York City, and my husband did his post graduate training at New York Medical College near White Plains, where we lived for approx. 7 years. Both our sons were born there. We moved to McAllen/Mission in 1984. (*Continues p. 3*)

Rouse to Present Program

Richard Rouse - Intrepid Traveler, Naturalist and Orchid Enthusiast Speaks about his Adventures in the Orchid World

Richard Rouse has grown and collected orchids on and off for more than 40 years. He studied cattleya culture in Santa Barbara, and has traveled to Africa and the back country of Belize studying and collecting species orchids. He lives in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia where he enjoys searching for the elusive Showy Orchis.



Galearis spectabilis (Orchis spectabilis)



Dan Bruckner photo

Officers for 2009

Al Taylor, Fidel Baldazo, Lee Baldazo, Marianne Hilmy, Cindy Willson
Treasurer Past President Secretary President Vice President



Galearis spectabilis (Orchis spectabilis)

Height: 6 to 12 inches

Flower/fruit: 1 inch leafy bract flower on 5 to 9 inch stalk; a spur hangs from the flat white lip; other petals and sepals are joined together to form a lilac to magenta erect hood

Flowering Season: Spring

Foliage: Pair of smooth, lustrous leaves, 4 to 8 inches long, at the base of the upright flower stalk

Site: Partial shade; rich, moist and usually rocky woodlands

TOTOS Heads for Houston

The Houston Orchid Society's AOS Spring Show will be held April 22-26 at the Hilton Houston North. TOTOS is providing a bus to the show. We will be sleeping and eating at the headquarters hotel for two nights. The rooms will be \$115 per night. Transportation will be provided by the society for the first 23 people who sign up. We will be leaving early Friday morning and returning Sunday afternoon spending 2 nights in Houston. **You need to make your own hotel reservations for the nights of April 24 and April 25, 2009.**



Please let Del know at the **February** meeting if you are planning to ride the bus. It is very important that we have a count of the number of participants as soon as possible.

Speakers for AOS 2009 Show

Keynote Address – Michael Tibbs - "Orchids of Africa"

Robert Dressler - "Recent Work on Sobralias and Lankester Garden"

Roy Tokunaga - "Flared Cattleyas: Creating New Exciting Colors"

Nina Rach - "Stanhopeas"

Earl Bailey - "Phragmipedium Hybridizing: The Search for the Compact"

Phragmipedium." (Presented by the Slipper Orchid Alliance)

Peter Furniss - "Orchid Shows and Judging Systems Around the World."

Hilton Houston North

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Houston, Texas
USA 77060

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Ask for AOS rates.

Fri., April 24

1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

Lecture – Roy Tokunaga "Flared Cattleyas: Creating New Exciting Colors"

2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Lecture – Earl Bailey "Phragmipedium Hybridizing: The Search for the Compact Phragmipedium"
(Presented by the Slipper Orchid Alliance)

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Slipper Orchid Alliance Meeting

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Pleurothallid Alliance Meeting and Lectures: Lynn O'Shaughnessy - "Culture of the Pleurothallidinae - or How to Grow Weeds"; and Joe Parker - "Draculas for the Less Fortunate"

Sat., April 25

7:30-9:00 a.m.

Judges Forum Breakfast*

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Show and Sales Open to Public

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Tour Houston \$40 – Depart Hilton Houston North – deadline 4/1/09*

9:00-11:30 a.m.

AOS Annual Meeting of Members and "Town Hall Meeting" followed by AOS Reorganizational Meeting

9:00-12:00 Noon

IPA Directors Meeting

11:00-2:00 p.m.

SWROGA Committee Meetings and General Business Meeting with Silent Auction

11:30-12:45 p.m.

Lecture - Robert Dressler "Recent Work on Sobralias and Lankester Garden"

12:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

IPA Members Meeting and lunch*

1:00-3:00 p.m.

ODC Annual Meeting

1:00-2:15 p.m.

Lecture – Peter Furniss "Orchid Shows and Judging Systems Around the World"

2:30-3:45 p.m.

Lecture – Michael Tibbs "Disa"

2:15-7:30 p.m.

AOS Auction Preparation, and Auction Preview followed by AOS Auction

7:30-10:00 p.m.

Banquet* - menu on registration form

Sun., April 26

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Show and Sales Open to Public – Breakdown at 4:00 p.m.

(Meet Marianne continued)

I don't remember when I purchased my first orchids, but I do know that I purchased them through an orchid-of-the-month club, probably from an ad in a garden magazine, and I also bought some Mexican species at a local nursery, Egger's Acres in Mission, and I had no idea of how to grow orchids except for the instructions that came with each plant. At some point I read an article about Dr. Wang and his research at the A&M facility in Weslaco, and one time when I was there for a sugar grower's meeting decided to stop by and talk to him to learn a bit more about growing orchids. Dr. Wang extended an invitation to come to a meeting in the orchid society and of course I ended up joining. I'm not sure when this was but guess it to be maybe 15+ years ago.

In the early days I had my plants on an east facing patio in pots and baskets hanging on the wall and later set up a couple of wire benches that were resting on a frame made of pvc pipes under a shade cloth that was stretched over a metal frame like a "carport". This was later expanded with a similar set up made a bit more solid with a wood frame and shade cloth covering. When we recently had to leave our home for a couple of years, because of extensive water damage to the home and having to rebuild it, the orchids got moved first to a west and later a north wall of our rental home. I had thought the west facing wall would be shaded enough by trees and later in the day by the house, but this turned out not to be the case and a lot of plants suffered sun burn. The same thing happened while they were along the north wall, so at some point I had to make a makeshift shade covering even while they were growing along the north side of the house. When we rebuilt our home I managed to get a greenhouse included, and the orchids finally were moved to a more permanent location. As a result of all the changes in growing area and moving them around, a lot of the plants did suffer setbacks, sun burns, some were lost, etc. Even in the greenhouse several changes were made after the initial set up, changing cooling system and ventilation, which wasn't adequate in the beginning, etc. etc. Picking up and implementing ideas from fellow society members and from reading articles and books, it's still a work in progress and probably will continue to be for a long time. The plants seem to have finally settled in, at least to some degree, though many are still recovering from the previously mentioned setbacks, and growing orchids in a greenhouse has its own set of challenges, but that's all part of the fun.

Marianne



Ask Marianne

Some of Marianne's Babies



Cattleya leopoldii



Psychopsis mendenhall



Rhyncholaelia digbyana

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