The Native Orchid Conference
Journal

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Volume 1, Issue 1 - Table of Contents

Organizational Information:

The purposes of the Native Orchid Conference shall be:

a. To promote the study, conservation, and enjoyment of the native orchids of North America to include the United States and Canada;
b. To disseminate information relating to native orchids, conservation, and appreciation of native orchids of any kind and in any manner through meetings, lectures, publications and otherwise;
c. To operate on a non-profit basis solely for benevolent, charitable, scientific and educational purposes useful to the public.

Any person interested in the native orchids of the United States and Canada may be eligible for membership. Annual dues are listed on the membership form found in the center of this volume.

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Front Cover: *Cypripedium parviflorum* v. *pubescens*. Digital Photo: R.J. Ferry, Sr.

Message from the President

Having never done this before, I was not sure what kind of message to write in the inaugural issue of our new journal. I must say that for me this is an exciting event! We have a long way to go to develop our fledgling organization, but I feel that starting this quarterly journal will be an important step for the future growth of the Native Orchid Conference organization.

Formal presentations and field trips at our annual conferences have set a tone for disseminating information relating to North American native orchids and their conservation. Yet, if this organization is to be more than one of annual meetings and occasional individual or group field trips, we need this Journal to provide a periodical way to share knowledge among the members throughout the year.

We anticipate that our publication will provide information of a cultural and scientific nature. We hope that it will not be so esoteric that it loses sight of work on propagation, proliferation, and conservation or personal accounts of the enjoyment and adventure of field explorations. In one or more of these areas, each of you probably has a story to tell. Don't be a bystander! This is your publication just as it is your organization. Sharing your experience and knowledge with others will enrich the Journal, the organization as an entity, and - more importantly – your fellow members. Compared with a century ago, we know much more about our native orchids, yet much remains for us to learn. One of the ways we will grow in our knowledge is by helping to educate each other.

The enthusiasm and harmony evidenced by individuals at the first conference in 2002 was met and enhanced by the same spirit in 2003. It has allowed us to formally launch our organization. Part of the fun for me is getting to know this growing network of fellow native orchid enthusiasts as we share in our addiction. I expect that the Native Orchid Conference will continue to evolve in the future to better serve the members and the membership's desires.

Thank you for supporting the organization through your membership. I look forward to your future participation!

Respectfully,

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NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE
15 – 29 MAY 2002

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My wife and I went to the American native orchid conference held at Greensboro North Carolina. We flew from Gatwick to Charlotte where we collected our rental car before heading to the conference. Greensboro is a beautiful town in the centre of North Carolina where apparently the British had won a battle in the war of American independence, but the locals informed me it was only a pyrrhic victory as the home side had depleted our troops so much that the next battle was crucial and was eventually won by the Americans. The first two days of the conference were held in Guilford County Agricultural Centre where we were treated with some great slide shows and speakers. The conference was dedicated to the memory of Philip Keenan author of "Wild orchids across North America—a botanical travelogue," a long time orchid enthusiast and naturalist, who passed away last year.

The speakers were David McAdoo, co-author of the booklet "Kentucky Orchidaceae," who spoke on "Exploring North Carolina and its native orchids," Dr. Carl Slaughter, a retired doctor, and past president of Arkansas native plant society and author of "Wild Orchids of Arkansas," who spoke on "North American Cypripediums" and on the following day "Sexual and asexual reproduction of vascular plants," Jyotsna Sharma, who spoke about a "Report on recovery efforts for the federally threatened *Platanthera praeclara* (orchidaceae)," Ron Coleman, of the University of Arizona at Tucson, author of "The wild orchids of California," who spoke on his new book "The wild orchids of Arizona and New Mexico," Shirley Curtis who spoke on "Exploring for orchids in the Canadian rockies, Banff, Yoho, Kootenay, and Jasper," Kevin Taylor, who gave a slide show on "Pink ladies' slippers," Dr. Charles Sheviak, a senior scientist and curator of Botany, NY State museum, a renown botanist who writes in several magazines including that of the AOS (The American Orchid Society), who spoke on "*Platanthera huronensis* in the far north: eleven time zones and the winds of change," Dennis Horn, a retired engineer and vice president of Tennessee Native Plant Society who spoke on "Orchids and wild flowers of Tennessee," Dr. Larry Mellichamp, professor of Biology at UNC-Charlotte, who spoke on "Bog gardening with orchids, carnivorous plants and other southeastern natives," Lorne Heshka, who spoke on "Orchids, whales, and a polar bear (an orchid hunting trip to Churchill, Manitoba)," and William Chapman, author of "Orchids of the Northeast – a field guide," who spoke on "From polk to *Pogonia*, Southern Ethnobotany."

The conference was really well run which was mainly due to the organisers – Mark Rose and David McAdoo. On our arrival at the hall we were greeted by old friends who we had met two years ago at Port Angeles near Seattle in Washington state when the organisation was then run by Paul Martin Brown of the North American Native Orchid Alliance (NANOA) who for some reason or other was not part of this conference. He has recently finished his book "Wild orchids of Florida," and maybe the writing of this book was one of the reasons that he has disappeared from the scene for so long. Therefore this was the first meeting of orchid enthusiasts and it would appear that this would be the demise of the old society NANOA.

There were many stands of plants and the one that caught my eye as I came through the door was a couple of beautiful plants of *Encyclia tampensis* (Florida butterfly orchid). I couldn't buy it, as I would not be allowed to take it home, so instead I headed to the book counter and bought Ron Coleman's latest book. I didn't realize at the time he was standing right behind me and offered his autograph that I gratefully accepted.

The meeting got off on time and the coffee, lunches and tea breaks couldn't have been better organised, where we could all meet up together, which was a far cry from the meeting in Port Angeles, where we all had to make our arrangements especially for lunch which meant a trip into the local town. The two days of the meeting were very hectic but everything went smoothly which was a surprise as there were many eminent speakers. However, at the end the real work had to be done in trying to arrange a new organisation. First of all they had to sort out who wanted to volunteer for the committee. Hands were raised and I think that there were enough people to get the organisation on its feet. It's still early days but there was enough enthusiasm to make sure that the organisation would start as soon as possible, so it was suggested that the attendants would all donate at least $10 each which seemed fine by the fifty odd attendants in the room. Most of the members wanted to know if there would be a conference next year, so a handful of the newly voted committee suggested that there would be a venue and the most likely place would be the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada. Unfortunately for me this would not be a new venue for me as my wife's brother lives in Toronto, and the peninsula from there is only three hours drive away, so I have been there several times.

The conference was still not over as two more days had been organised as field trips to the local orchids of North Carolina. We were aware of this, and we had prepared in advance a bed & breakfast called 'The Cresent Moon' at Holden beach on the coast. We chose this place as we prefer a B & B that is rare in the States. So after the meeting we all headed south to the coastal area of North Carolina but too late to appreciate the wonderful Carolina coastline. The following day we went to Green Swamp (a Nature Conservancy Preserve) which is well known for the Venus fly trap (*Dionaea muscipula*), as well as two types of bladderworts (*Utricularia species*) , three types of pitcher plants (*Sarracenia species*), and two types of sundews

(*Drosera species*) as well as the home of the rare cockaded woodpecker, the only woodpecker in America to have its nest in live trees, and of course the orchids and other plants. The swamp wasn't too bad for getting around, and we soon joined a party heading into a grassy area surrounded by slash pine. The grass was high here, and this is where we stumbled on our first orchid, *Cleistes bifaria* (Fig. 1), that has many ordinary names but the one I prefer is the 'upland spreading pogonia.' A little further on we did encounter its relation, *Cleistes divaricata* known as the 'large spreading pogonia.' These orchids are extremely pretty with a large labellum and spreading sepals. These species have only been separated recently and it is rare for both to be found together. *C. bifaria* is mainly found in upland areas as its common name suggests whereas *C. divaricata* prefers wetter areas on low lying land and often prefers a burnt area. In this area there are several places where controlled burns had taken place that is sensible for controlling forest fires and not just for the sake of the orchids. Of course a fire in this swamp would often happen naturally. Apart from the *Cleistes* which are one of the most highly sought after orchids we then found *Calopogon pallidus* (pale grass pink) *Calopogon tuberosus* (common grass pink) and *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (rose pogonia) all looking quite radiant. The latter two species I had seen before and are quite widespread from Canada to Florida. However, it was nice to find old friends that often grow together in wet places. The pale grass pink was new to me and was a lot smaller in size and varied in colour from light pink to white. The grass pinks are all nonresupinate and stand out readily from the grassy backgrounds. The rose pogonia normally has a very deep pink colour with a deeply fringed margin with yellow beard. The only other orchid we found here was *Spiranthes praecox* that has green veining on the labellum that we found by the roadside. One of the common names is "giant ladies' tresses" but only one of these orchids fitted that description. There are many other orchid species found here and we were pointed out some old stems from last years orchids by Chuck Sheviak of *Plantanthera integra*, *Plantanthera nivea*, and *Plantanthera ciliaris*. Other orchids found here in other months of the year are *P. blephariglottis*, *P. clavellata*, *P. cristata*, *P. lacera*, *Calopogon barbatus*,

Fig. 1. *Cleistes bifaria*. Photo: D. R. McAdoo.

Corallorhiza odontorhiza, *C. wisteriana*, *Epidendrum conopsum* (the only epiphytic orchid found outside of Florida in the USA), *Listera australis*, *Malaxis spicata*, *Malaxis unifolia*, *Pteroglossaspis ecristata*, *Ponthieva racemosa*, *Spiranthes cernua*, *S. lacera var. gracilis*, *S. Lacera var lacera*, *S. longilabris*, *S. ovalis*, *S. odorata*, *S. tuberosa*, and *S. vernalis*.

Later we visited two smaller sites before heading to Boone in the Appalachian Mountains, a six hour drive. It seemed strange that the conference was held in central North Carolina that made in necessary for us to drive south for four hours and then north for another six, but I assume that was the only possible venue at the time of booking. The next day we went to several sites in the mountains which were just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, a road which seems to have been built just purely for pleasure and runs right through the Appalachian mountains for over 400 miles. Here we met the organisers for a trip to look at the mountain orchids that were in bloom at this time of the year. The main quest was to find *Isotria verticillata* (large whorled pogonia) that we found on the Tanawha trail. There were several plants but unfortunately all the plants were blind (sterile). *Isotria medeoloides* known as the lesser whorled pogonia has been found in the area but is so rare that it is on the endangered list. It is well named as both species when not in bloom look remarkably like Indian cucumber root (*Medeola virginiana*) and the lesser whorled pogonia had adopted the latin inscription. However we did find *Cypripedium acaule* that has many common names such as pink ladies'slipper and stemless ladies'slipper. Both common names describe the orchid quite well and we were pleased to find some. This orchid is very common in the Appalachians and can be found as far north as Canada. Apparently the isotria's are often found accompanied by this orchid but not unfortunately vice versa. We then persuaded our leader to take us to another site where eventually we did find some more plants, most of them blind, but here there were a few that had flowered and were now in fruit. Although our luck had not held out for the isotrias we did however find on the trail in bloom *Aplectrum hyemale* often known as puttyroot (Fig. 2). We were expecting to find this orchid but for some reason it had evaded our eyes. This is a well-camouflaged orchid in the col-

Fig. 2. *A. hymenale*. Photo D. R. McAdoo.

ours of yellow and green and blends in quite well in the woodland setting. This orchid often puts up a single leaf in winter which can be seen easier in the snow than when the orchid is in full bloom. We saw two orchids in bud, *Platanthera ciliaris* and *Plantanthera orbiculata*, the latter of which has two great big pad like basal leaves, which were so large I wouldn't be surprised if the species would come under the heading of variety 'macrophylla,' but a further check on the spur would help when in flower. Other orchids seen in the area either in leaf or rosette form were *Galearis spectabilis*, *Goodyera pubesens*, and *Tipularia discolor*.

This was the last day of the conference, so we said goodbye to all our friends and went on to two further sites that were recommended. The first site by Sims lake was for *Listera smallii*, an endemic orchid of the Appalachians. We were lucky to find some in bud as they were so small, although we had read that they like growing in wet areas beside or under rhododendron and *Kalmia* bushes, which proved correct. *Rhododendrom catawbiense*, *R. maximu*m and *Kalmia latifolia* were reasonably common in this area and the latter being one of my favourite plants. Linville falls was our next stop, and apart from admiring the waterfalls we did find *C. acuale* in bloom, *G. spectabilis* in leaf form, *Aplectrum* in fruit, and the ubiquitous *Goodyera pubescens* together with *Goodyera repens var.ophioides* in rosette form. The latter orchid being similar to our own in many ways except its basal leaves have a startling tesselated design.

The next day we had arranged to meet up with a friend who was off to Tennessee. The main purpose for visiting Tennessee was to see *Cypripedium kentuckiense* which is better known to the local botanists as the Southern Ladies' slipper orchid as it grows is most of the southern states and not just Kentucky. We were very fortunate and visited a site near Huntsville where we only saw two flowering plants. We were told that this used to be the best site in the state and that there did not seem to be any reason why the site had taken a downward path. At least we did see two wonderful plants that appear bigger than any other cypripediums in the USA. They are very similar to *C. parviflorum var. pubesens* and apart from the size the colour was a very pale yellow. The following day we visited another site near Manchester which had taken a turn for the better, where we saw at least thirty flowering plants; apparently a large increase from when they were last seen at this site. We could see the site had been well looked after as there was protection in some areas from deer and other varmints! Later there were other plant sites to see so we saw a local prairie species, rare in Tennessee, and saw irises and pentstemons as well as seeing a wet area full of *Pogonia ophioglossoides*. In these areas *Platanthera nivea*, *Platanthera lacera*, *Cleistes bifaria*, and *Listera australis* had been recorded.

As we were in the middle of Tennessee we decided to do our tourism bit so we travelled all the way to Memphis to see Gracelands (Elvis) and the mighty Mississippi.. After touring that area we headed back through Nash-

ville and attended a Country & Western concert at the Grand Old Opry, a live radio show. Back to the Appalachian mountains and a quick visit to Vanderbilt house near Ashville, a house structured like the chateaus on the Loire valley in France with many art treasures from the old world. We decided to head for the coast and on the way we stopped at Eno River State Park where we had been informed that there was *Liparis lilifolia* (Fig. 3), known as the lily leafed twayblade in bloom. It didn't take too much searching before we stumbled on one plant by a bridge together with some rising *G. pubesens*. We were very pleased as we had never seen this orchid before which is also related to our *Liparis loeselii* which also grows in the USA. The Americans call these type of orchids twayblades unlike ourselves who relate twayblades with the *Listera* genus. The plant is far prettier than the dour fen orchid as it is a mauve colour that highlights the dull scenery in the vicinity. Further into the park we later found *Cypripedium parviflora var. pubesens* that is similar to our *C. calceolus* but with yellow tepals growing near the river but unfortunately for us they were well past their best.

Fig. 3. *Liparis lilifolia*. Photo: D.R. McAdoo.

It was now time to head for the beaches and do a little bird spotting so first of all we went to Wilmington and caught the ferry to Southport and eventually relaxed on the beach watching the brown pelicans and boat tailed grackles. We then decided to have one last look at the Green Swamp and were pleased that we had much better weather as previously we were trekking around in a drizzle but at least that kept the bugs at bay as mites and chiggers (whatever they are) abound in this type of environment. So although it was hot we did put on the necessary clothing. We had not realized that this reserve is for black bears, so as we were by ourselves we did not overstay our visit. We didn't find anything new and most of the other plants had gone over. It seems that the area was in a transition before the next lot of goodies.

We visited a few other parks but only found *Spiranthes vernalis,* the spring ladies' tresses, growing in most of them and roadsides. This orchid reminds me of our own *Spiranthes spiralis* but in a much larger form with occasional leaves,and sharp pointed hairs. Some of the coastal parks such as Huntington in South Carolina have good birding areas where we saw Indigo and painted buntings alongside the more common birds (blue jays, northern cardinals, and bluebirds). We returned to the airport via the freeway from Charleston to Charlotte. The round trip was 3,146 miles, but one well worthwhile.

AN UNLIKELY PLACE TO FIND AN ORCHID TREASURE

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It was an unlikely place to find an orchid—or an orchid club for that matter. It was hot and dry; just nine miles from Death Valley Junction; and the ground was so thickly covered with salt it looked like winter snow. Fed by a vast network of underground springs, the ground bounced like foam rubber when we walked on it. On June 25, 2003, seven hardy club conservation enthusiasts (Mike Lawless, Dan Mumau, Liz Leone, John Haydukavitch, Carol Siegel, Diana Smith, and Steve Ninemire) braved the intense summer heat to participate in the experience of a life-time; the orchid count of *Spiranthes infernalis* (Fig. 1) at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. *Spiranthes infernalis* is found there and nowhere else in the world. We got up at dawn and drove 90 miles to make sure that the population of 10,000 endemic orchids was safe from invasive weeds, like the Russian knapweed *(Acroptilon repens*), a noxious perennial herb, probably introduced in hay from Eurasia, which now covers over 500 acres where there were none in 1990. The fear is that the introduced weeds will squeeze out this rare orchid. The 22,000 acres of Meadows are protected as a national wildlife refuge because they contain a greater concentration of unique species than any other location in the United States—13 threatened and endangered species and at least 24 plants and animals found nowhere else in the world, including our orchid. In addition, this is one of the few natural desert oases in the Southwest providing habitat for 220 species of migratory birds.

Fig. 1. Inflorescence,*Spiranthes infernalis*. Photo: Carol Siegel.

We entered our target area via an unpaved, dusty and deserted looking road. In the distance, Crystal Reservoir, one of 40 springs, sparkled in the shimmering heat of the morning; a blue lake in the crusty earth. We met Gina Glenn of the Fish and Wildlife Service, a charming young lady who would lead the count. With her were several people from Kew Gardens in England, collecting seed from the unique meadow plants as part of their conservation effort. We walked on a half-mile long raised boardwalk, following a narrow stream filled with Baltic rush, Lizard's Tail, and reeds in the midst of the arid terrain. Unexpectedly, the boardwalk ended in a pool of clear, blue-green water, Crystal Spring, with a sand floor and bright green algae. The 30°C. (85°F.) water, flowing at 3,000 gallons a minute, was part of a vast underground water system with 30 springs seeping "fossil" water believed to have entered the water system underground thousands of years ago. At one time, the whole area was an

interconnected series of lakes and springs, but the receding glaciers at the ice age's end left Ash Meadows an isolated oasis in the middle of a desert. Swimming in the water were tiny pupfish, one of four endangered fish species in the refuge. As we turned around to go back, we had our first look at our orchids, sticking up like birthday candles in the ground.

Fig. 2. Plant, *Spiranthes infernalis*. Photo: Carol Siegel.

Spiranthes infernalis, also called the Ash Meadow's Ladies' Tresses, was considered *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* until 1989. The word *Spiranthes* comes from two Greek words meaning "coil" and "flowers" alluding to the coiled or spiraled inflorescences of this genus. Because of the supposed resemblance of the spirals to some hair styles, members of *Spiranthes* are commonly called "ladies'-tresses." *Spiranthes infernalis*, the Ash Meadows ladies'-tresses, was named in 1989 by Dr. Charles J. Sheviak and the species is endemic to the alkaline, moist soils of Ash Meadows, meaning it is ONLY found there, making it very special. It is similar to other *Spiranthes* with its many small, white, spiraling orchid flowers. In 1990, populations world-wide were estimated at between 730-1160 individuals. Until last year, global counts for species were around 1400 individuals. However, surveys last year estimated 10,000 individual plants and this year, happily, the survey in which we took part found 13,500 plants. Our little orchid species is doing okay!

We were given a map and told to each take a 10 foot swath and walk the length and breadth of the area, recording orchids as we went. The morning was spent cutting a path through mesquite and ash groves and saltbush and creosote. The spiky branches crunched as we pushed our way through the brush. Crushed and crunched ourselves, we stopped for lunch, and then Gina took us to another spot, more open and accessible, looking much like the tall grasses of an African savanna. Wending our way along the small meandering stream, we excitedly found our *Spiranthes*, about 35.5 cm. tall (14 inches); the same slender and spiraled, birthday candles (Fig. 2). We, who live in the shadows of the architectural wonder that is Las Vegas, with all its glitz and glamour, were thrilled to see this little survivor, beating all odds by surviving in this strange and unlikely environment. Thrilled, too, we were, to have made this effort to contribute to conserving one of our very special native orchids.

References:

Handout. (undated) Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nevada National Parks and Tourist Guide-Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (http://www.americansouthwest.net/nevada/ash_meadows/wildlife_refuge.html)

REMINISCENCES OF PHIL KEENAN

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Our first important encounter with Phil was June 13, 1984 at his slide show "Wildflowers and Shrubs of Odiorne State Park." We came because of our interest in wildflowers and an acquaintance with Philip Keenan as conservationist and nature photographer. Little did we know that was the beginning of what would be a passionate interest in wild orchids and a great friendship with Phil. We soon realized that no matter the subject of Phil's slide presentations there would always be a section on orchids and birds, reflecting his deep knowledge of both. This show included some beautiful slides of *Arethusa bulbosa*. We had been photographing wildflowers, but soon would learn that all wildflowers were not the same: orchids were special! After the show we talked with Phil, who generously shared directions to a site for *Arethusa* plants. Two days later we found and photographed them, and from that time we were hooked on wild orchids.

Phil Keenan June 20, 1928-August 31, 2001.
Photo: Sally Puth.

One of our first field expeditions was to a local site for yellow lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens*) uncommon in our area. Phil told us to follow EXACTLY in his footsteps, and of course we did, with reverence for the expert. We photographed, and Phil gave us help and instruction, from holding a reflector for us to cautioning us about trampling nearby vegetation. Respect for the environment was an integral element of his studies. He tried to leave every site as he found it.

Being shown an orchid was not the same as discovering ones ourselves. With interest piqued, we signed up for a New England Wildflower Society course on Orchids of New England with Paul Brown in 1987. After 12 field trips throughout New England, we became slightly more than novices. We began to go into the field with Phil locally and into Vermont & Maine. In June of 1986 Phil took us to a site in Milton, New Hampshire where Hooker's orchid (*Platanthera hookeri*) comes up every year. Some years the deer eat it, so you have to wait another year to see it in bloom. This just happened to be one of those years. He had searched all around and never found any other plants. He told us this was a great site for downy rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*), so in August we went there to photograph it. We usually brought our lunch and would sit in the woods to eat our sandwiches. We looked down by our feet and saw we had almost stepped on a group of four plants of small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) in fruit. This was an exciting find for us, and a site that we've monitored every year since.

On a lovely day in early June 1990 we were headed to Strafford, Vermont to a new site to see the smallest of the Cypripediums, *C. arietinum*, the ram's-head lady's-slipper. Our directions seemed simple enough: after exiting the Interstate, drive into a small town, go to the commons, turn right, pass three red barns, go to a rough dirt road on the left called Tater Valley Road. If we had a problem we were to ask directions at the small store. Well, there are a lot of red barns in Vermont! We turned off from the circle, passed several barns but encountered no road called Tater Valley. At *what* little store were we to ask? Vermont has many wonderful dirt roads for exploring, but back then not many of them had name signs. We stopped at a house for directions, but they had never heard of the Tater Valley road. We went back to the circle and took the next road, even though the gas gauge was almost empty. Phil was sure we'd find gas, so we headed into the wilderness. Finally we saw a house up ahead but outside there were 8 motorcycles and men drinking beer. We locked the doors and drove on. We've laughed about this day many times.

Phil called Paul that night to get better directions. Next day we headed back up and we found the site without much trouble. There were 150 plants in full bloom, and one plant even had double flowers. Near by were a few plants of the showy orchis *Galearis spectabilis*, with very dark lips, early coral root, *Corallorhiza trifida*, and two plants of Hooker's orchid in bud all in this small area. A few years later we walked further up this old logging road to yellow lady's-slipper heaven, where more than 500 large yellow lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens*) bloom.

On a trip to Manitoba for western prairie fringed orchids, *Platanthera praeclara*, in 1998, Phil, Shirley, and her husband Cory saw some really beautiful groups of orchids across a wet roadside ditch. Phil was so excited he just charged right through it. When he got back into the truck we noticed this horrible smell, and found that he had gotten black muck all over his boots. Phil said he didn't smell anything, but we banished his boots to back of the truck. On another trip, in Evans Notch, Maine, scouring a streambed for broad-lipped twayblade *Listera convallariodes*, Sally plunged into the muck knee deep and it took both Phil and Shirley to extricate her. Perhaps muck is an integral part of orchid hunting. At least we got good photographs!

On an Oregon field trip (1995) it was a thrill to see thousands of California lady's-slippers, *Cypripedium californicum*, massed along a stream. Though Phil was usually the one most outwardly restrained he was so excited that day he was almost sick. In truth it WAS like a bit of heaven, and a special pleasure to share with a friend.

The spotted lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium guttatum*, found on Kodiak Island, Alaska, was a lifetime dream come-true for Phil, and made for another landmark orchid memory. The first attempt at landing on that fog-encased island resulted in a dramatic, heart stopping last minute swoop up over the mountain, then back to the mainland. On the second try we made it safely with our hearts only moderately pounding, and began several days reveling in seeing

the Kodiak orchid (*Dactylhoriza aristata var. kodiakensis*), lady's-slippers (both *C. yatabeanum* and *C. guttatum*), purple and yellow forms of the heart-leaved twayblade (Listera cordata), various *Platanthera* species, as well as chocolate lilies (*Frittillaria camschatcensis*), shooting stars (*Dodecatheon spp.*), and awesome island scenery.

Every August for over 25 years Phil repeatedly drove 90 minutes to Squam Lake to photograph and study the three-birds orchid *Triphora trianthophora*. This site is near the original site mentioned in Morris & Eames 1929 book "Our Wild Orchids" called "Algonquin Park." Phil said blooming is spread out over about 30 days, with three major bloom days, three moderate bloom days, and three or four days with a few scattered individuals open. On a Tuesday morning in 1990, when he first invited us to go with him, we headed to Squam Lake, only to find these tiny little flowers in tight green buds. He was sure they would be open in two days, so Thursday we returned. On Thursday they were tight white buds, so of course we had to go again the *next* day, when they were plump white buds. Saturday, August the 14th we were rewarded with a spectacular sight; the "big bloom." It was a beautiful sunny day, with over 20,000 flowers open. We have never seen it like this since that outing. There have been some nice flowering years, but nothing like 1990.

One of our most recent trips was an expedition to Pittsburg, New Hampshire in August 2000. We set out under threatening skies, but the sun emerged and the temperature soared. Negotiating a sweltering swamp we were adequately rewarded for all the sweat by being treated to hundreds of small purple fringed orchids (*Platanthera psycodes*). During those two days we found at least 15 sites of purples: both *P. psycodes* and *P. grandiflora* as well as a spectacular group of ragged fringed orchids (*P. lacera)*. An overnight in Pittsburg at a "rustic" motel was not Phil's preferred accommodation but we all had fun and it gave him a taste of the "boonies". Our only disappointment was not seeing even one of Pittsburg's famous moose.

Over the years we three have explored and scouted for orchids in New England and throughout the US and Canada, at times together and others separately. We've had many hours of driving to sites in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Connecticut; talking all the time; trekking into woods and swamps in search of Phil's favorite, the pink lady's- slipper (*C. acaule*); groaning over the stiffness of lying on our stomachs photographing a tiny calypso or twayblade; sharing sandwiches; and sometimes driving the three hours home disappointed at finding no blooms. Each year just the three of us have had several slide shows. Every flower or photographic technique has been up for discussion in detail—more detail than anyone else could endure! When we included spouses we would only show our best slides and fewer of them.

Knowing Phil was a joy. As teacher, photographer, botanist, talker, listener and friend he made it all interesting and fun. His writing was informative and vividly descriptive, and his beautiful slides reflected well his love of orchids. We've all lost a great contributor, but the memories will endure.

THE PHILIP KEENAN AWARD FOR NATIVE ORCHIDS

In April 2002 the Conservation Committee of the American Orchid Society established The Phillip Keenan Award for Native Orchids. It was designed to encourage conservation and recognize people who have made significant contributions in fostering the study or preservation of native orchids of North America north of Mexico.

This award was endowed by family and friends (including the Native Orchid Conference) as a memorial to Phillip Keenan who was a long time avid naturalist, photographer, author and native orchid enthusiast.

I thought that you would be happy to know that the inaugural winner of this award is Dr. Charles Sheviak.

Chuck has been Senior Scientist and Curator of Botany at the New York State Museum since 1978. He has worked in the field of North America native orchids for decades and has revised and expanded many concepts of our native orchids. Although a dedicated and highly published scientist, he will always stop to help teach an individual or group to understand concepts and to answer questions with the patience that is as rare as it is accommodating. He has been very supportive of this organization and the past two conferences that we have held. Currently he is serving as the Scientific Advisor to our board.

In announcing the winner Dr. Albert Svoboda, Chair of the AOS Conservation Committee, reported that the AOS Conservation Committee voted unanimously and the Board of Trustees approved The Philip Keenan Award for Dr. Charles Sheviak for his tireless work on orchids native to North America, identifying new species and improving the understanding of the diversity and complexity of the orchid family.

It is with great pleasure I extend, on behalf of the entire membership of the Native Orchid Conference, Congratulations to Dr. Charles Sheviak!

Sincerely,

David McAdoo, President
Native Orchid Conference, Inc.
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Author's note:

Flowerpot Island gets its name from two rock formations on its eastern shore and is one of many islands of Fathom Five National Marine Park. It is 200 hectares and is located 6.5 kilometers northwest of Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. The island of limestone bedrock is covered with a forest of cedar, spruce, white pine, birch, tamarack, balsam fir, mountain ash, and trembling aspen. The western side of the island faces Lake Huron and the eastern side, Georgian Bay. Glenda Quinn is president of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador and attended the North America Native Orchid Conference in June 2003. COSEWIC is the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

EXPLORING THE PLANTS OF FLOWERPOT ISLAND

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It was a Monday, but the antithesis of Blue Monday, although the day was shades of blue, sapphire and azure. Sky and water, soul mates, conspiring to complete the beauty surrounding us, melded with the warm rays of sunshine; the elements were gentle. As we stepped off the dock onto Flowerpot Island, Earth, too, revealed her gems of ruby and gold—the bright heads of Columbine, nodding a cherry greeting. Anchored to the ancient, speckled grey rocks, the beautiful wildflower bewitched us, convincing me that no gardener of Kew or Claude Monet's Giverny could re-create such a setting; only Nature, herself. What other delicious treasures did this little island have to offer, if it could so casually throw such a gift at our feet?

Several orchid species are found on Flowerpot Island and I saw two in bloom: the fairy slipper, *Calypso bulbosa* and the striped coralroot, *Corallorhiza striata*. These two very different ones illustrate the diverse forms orchids can take while sharing characteristics of the Orchid family. In Newfoundland, the Fairy Slipper may be at risk (COSEWIC) and it can be found only on the west coast where the substrata is calcareous. Finding it in Newfoundland would be exhilarating but it was exciting to see it for the first time on this little island in Lake Huron. "Calypso" was named for the sea nymph Kalypso. She seduced Odysseus, who was returning from Troy, with her beauty and sexual allure and he spent eight years on her island before returning to Ithaca. I met Calypso on an island, too!

Calypso has a single, oval, basal leaf, a stem with 2-3 transparent sheaths, and grows from three to six inches. Blooming from May to June, the orchid likes the shade of moist, cool coniferous woods on, or near decayed stumps and logs. Sue told me kidney-leaved violet *Viola renifolia* was a good floristic indicator of this elusive charmer, or maybe, as Odysseus might say, seductress. The corms are shallow-rooted and are easily damaged by trampling. I wonder if they survived the onslaught of our orchid devotees or whether they were loved to death. *Calypso* is a monotypic genus and the flower is a shade of mauve, with white and yellow. The yellow colour is on

the saccate lip and is in the form of hairs which signal bees to come and enter the column. In the fall a single new leaf appears and stays under the snow all winter, dying after the solitary flower withers.

The first time I saw Spotted Coralroot *Corallorhiza maculata* was at Manuels River and it was the plant's unusual, gangly appearance that caught my eye, rather unattractive, until the wildflower is examined more closely. A camera lens performs magic and only then is its true beauty revealed. That can be said for many plants in the orchid family. The striped coralroot is a close cousin of the spotted coralroot, and it is more striking because of its beautiful maroon stripes. A costume designer for a Parisian haute couture house would have the perfect inspiration for an elegant gown or hat if he could see the lovely colours and shape of this orchid. The flower of striped petals and sepals form a protective umbrella-like structure over the deep maroon labellum. Striped coralroot is glabrous and can reach a height anywhere from four to sixteen inches. It grows on the forest floor where limestone is near the surface. It likes to make its home beside *Calypso* and is one of the first coralroots to bloom. It blooms in late May to late June. This orchid is also at risk (COSEWIC) in Newfoundland and is more prevalent in Western Canada and, as Catling said, the striped coralroot has a similar but less pronounced pattern than the Alaskan orchid *Piperia unalascensis* which is widespread in the west but very local in the east.

I may have seen only two orchids in bloom on Flowerpot Island but they were two I have very little chance of seeing in my own province. Besides, there were other interesting wildflowers I saw for the first time on this little treasure of an island and I was happy. I did see the leaves and buds of Hooker's orchid, *Platanthera hookeri* and Carmel did capture an image of heart-leaved Twayblade *Listera cordata* with her camera.

Sometimes I think some wildflowers are cheated because their common names are so unappealing and an immediate prejudice is formed. Scabious! Other times you are immediately charmed by their common name as I am with goldthread. I think I fell in love with the plant before I even saw it, the name alone captivated me. Goldthread, *Coptis trifolia*, flourishes on Flowerpot and was one of the many plants familiar to me, an old friend, reminding me of the day we were exploring Goose Cove and found an old 17th century cannon embedded in the heath on the shore of Trinity Bay. Between the limestone rocks, *Geranium robertianum* flourished and the rosy-purple flowers and fern-like leaves were lovely splashes of colour on the shore. New to me was large-flowered *Trillium Trillium grandiflorum* and Gaywings *Polygala paucifolia*. The large- flowered *Trillium* has three white petals which stand out against the three sepals and three green leaves. If you see a plant with pink leaves it means the plant is growing old and is about to wither. Now that's growing old gracefully! Gaywings is not a secretive plant and its bold colour makes it

stand out from the surrounding vegetation and it cries out, "take my picture; I'm as pretty as an orchid." The rose-purple flowers are somewhat tubular with yellow fringes on the tips, wings at the tops, and the plant is quite small. Gaywings has several common names so take your pick: flowering wintergreen, fringed polygala, fringed milkwort, bird-on-the-wing, or my favourite, gaywings. Five common names for a plant whose genus begins with *Poly*! Another pretty and delicate looking plant growing on the trail was foamflower. A member of the Saxifrage Family with maplelike leaves, its protruding stamens create an effect of white foam. It is not a native of this province, probably because it prefers rich woods which are not too prevalent on the island. I bought it from a nursery years ago and planted it in my garden, but it did not survive.

Growing on a boulder covered with moss and dried coniferous needles, a rosette of basal leaves with a dried scape and capsules was a tantalizing preview of things to come later in July. The ovate leaves with the white stripe down each one, were those of Menzies' rattlesnake plantain, *Goodyera oblongifolia.* It will be the good fortune of someone hiking Flowerpot later in the summer to catch the full production of Menzies' rattlesnake plantain. Two hundred years ago, Archibald Menzies, a doctor and naturalist accompanied Captain Vancouver on an expedition voyage (1791-1795), and it is his name the plant bears today. Menzies was the first to describe the Douglas Fir and other conifers on North America's western seaboard. The Menzies' rattlesnake plantain has a similar distribution pattern as the Alaskan orchid and the striped coralroot: the further east you go, the less you see it. In Newfoundland it may be at risk (COSEWIC). Rattlesnake is a word that popped up often in the few days we were away. Sometimes it referred to the slithery creature and sometimes to plants. On Flowerpot, beside the orchid, Menzies' Rattlesnake Plantain, I saw a beautiful fern and I didn't have to trouble myself with its identification, Sue was standing beside me: rattlesnake fern *Botrychium virginianum*. It grows back home, but only in w/nw Nfld. to central Labrador, so chances are, I was seeing it for the first time. The sporangia are clustered toward the tip of a fertile stalk and its stalk arises at the base of the lacy blade. The fern is a member of the Adder's Mouth family which includes moonwort and the leathery grapefern. Another fern I saw was the maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* which has a dark and wiry rachis. This fern, a disjunct in North America, is considered very rare in Newfoundland and only two locations are known on serpentine and limestone talus. It, too, was growing on a rock.

Flowerpot Island lived up to its name and left me with some great memories of time spent with good friends and flowers. As we climbed aboard the Zodiac it occurred to us we had another "getting about" challenge to find a ride back to Sauble Beach, about 100 km. distant,...but that's another story.

ROAD TRIPS

Wayne Roberts
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(note: all photos in this article are by the author)

Every spring I pack up my camera for a new "road trip" to discover new patches of wild orchids in their full glory. My wife and sons think I'm crazy to drive 6 to 8 hours to take shots with 2 to 3 rolls of film and drive back sometimes the same day, or schedule some of our vacation time for hikes (at the right time of course) to where cypripediums and other orchids are blooming along the trail. My escapades have taken me to as far east as Cape Island in Nova Scotia to as far south as the Everglades but is limited to the Eastern half of North America and our native orchids.

Fig. 1. *Cypripedium kentuckiense*, near Ravenna, Kentucky.

My trips usually start in May with a trip to the Smoky Mts. or an excursion into the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. In Kentucky, I often orchid hunt with a lovely lady (formally a beauty queen) named Fontaine Hutchinson. Both of us are enthusiastic about locating orchid sites in this mountain area. Fortunately, we both have sympathetic spouses. Although my wife likes to kid me about going into the woods with "another woman," both of our spouses know the orchids come first with us and are understanding about our orchid explorations.

In Kentucky, the Daniel Boone National Forest begins at the Tennessee border from Mount Pisgah-eastward-to-Williamsburg and extends northeast. It forks in the London area with one arm continuing northeast and the other reaching about due east. Driving southeast of Lexington on highway 89 to Irvine, and then taking highway 52 for a couple of miles brings us to Ravenna on the western edge of the main branch continuing northeast. One of the prettiest orchids to be found in this vicinity is *Cypripedium kentuckiense* (Fig. 1). It grows along small streambeds. Most are in almost pure sand, although some clumps farther away from the stream bed can be found in depressions in a sand-humus mix.

We also see other cyps here. *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* is found growing in clumps in many different localities, and plants of *Cypripedium acaule* encountered here have very good color and condition. *C. acaule* is found in open woods, growing in the rich humus of the forest floor. Although not as abundant here as it is in some areas in New England, the flow-

ers of *C. acaule* are larger than ones I've seen there (sorry New England).

In addition to these wonderful flowers, we've encountered other beautiful other orchids. One of my favorites, although small, is a lovely twayblade I identified as *L. smallii, but it's really Listera lilifolia* (Fig. 2). It was found growing along an overgrown rock cut for the road, along the ledge of the cliff at about 20 feet above the road level. The entire site was wet from the water dribbling down from a small spring above.

Fig. 2. *Listera lilifolia* Ravenna, Kentucky area.

A lot of writing has been done about how difficult it can be to grow orchids, and particularly some of the cypripediums, but it should be taken with a large grain of salt! These plants grow well in the wild, and do equally well as full clumps in Fontaine's flower bed. For orchid lovers who can't get out into the mountains and forests for one reason or another, many of these species can be grown very well in an individual's garden!

When photographing orchids, I never know when I'll just run across nature at work. On one occasion, while shooting a group of plants, I noticed a flower moving. I looked closer and down in the pouch was a bumble bee. I took a few quick pictures, but as I tried to install close up lenses it exited the flower and was gone with a pollen mass on its back.

I've mentioned only a few of the orchids to be found in Kentucky, but there are over thirty species of orchids in this state! In short, if you're looking for a place in the eastern-central area of the United States to go orchid hunting in the spring and early summer, consider spending some time in the Daniel Boone National Forest of southeastern Kentucky!

When I'm not heading for the hills of Kentucky, another favorite short trip is to a particular wildlife region along the southern shore of Lake Erie, in the vicinity of Sandusky, Ohio. They burn this area every three or four years and the *Cypripedium candidum* seem to love it. This locality has thousands of little plants growing in full sun in the shallow black soil, and in some places it's difficult to walk without stepping on them. The area is wet in the spring but can get bone dry in August, but the cyps don't seem to mind the dry period. There was a colony of *Cypripedium parviflorum* here, but I've not seen it for a couple of years. On my last survey, the only trace left of its orchid population appears to be a few *Cypripedium* ×*andrewsii* still holding on. (a natural hybrid of *C. candidum* × *C. parviflorum*) I tried to reintroduce this natural hybrid into this area only to see the state bulldoze the area. The state has it set off for a hunting reserve and the orchids take a second place to hunting.

Orchids are not numerous in all the Ohio locations I explore, but some may be found in places where human activity has used an area and then left it as wasteland. I've found *Spiranthes* species growing in the wet subsoil brought

to the surface on strip-mined land in southern Ohio in an area called "The Wilds", which is the largest game reserve in the US. A couple years ago, I also donated them some cyps in hopes of getting them back into the area, but I've not been back to see how well they're doing. Ohio has other areas to explore such as Gott Fen (near Streetsboro) with its *Cyp. reginae*, and the Hocking Hills wildlife area (near Logan) is pleasurable all summer.

My whole family enjoys traveling north and crossing over into Ontario, Canada. North of Hamilton, the Bruce Peninsula rates as the best I've seen! For sheer numbers and varieties, this area is unbeatable! There is a book or two written on just this little area, and it'd be worthwhile to bring them along if you're planning a trip to the Bruce Peninsula. As a matter of fact, the books published about the Bruce Peninsula are good ones to own even if a trip isn't in your immediate plans.

Fig. 3. *Corallorhiza striata*.

I've traveled to the Bruce Peninsula several times, and at different times of the year. Go very early and see *Calypso* followed by a host of different cyps, but the most impressive time to go is in early June when *Cypripedium pubescens* plants are as plentiful on the roads leading to the national campground area as dandelions are in Ohio. In the national campground, *Cypripedium parviflorum* is to be seen in spots, but it is found in greater abundance some distance away from the main trail. It grows in medium damp woods in the leaf litter overlaying the sandy soil. Although it's getting rare, the biggest beauty in this area is *Cypripedium reginae*. Other orchids here include the coral root, *Corallorhiza striata* (Fig. 3), or the lovely *Calopogon tuberosus* (Fig. 4). This year I hope to go deeper north or perhaps west into Canada, searching for *Cypripedium montanum*.

Fig. 4. *Calapogon tuberosus*.

Most of these photos are ones I've taken of plants growing in the wild, but I've been growing many of these in my yard for 30 years. I received the first one as a prize in a lily show, and then found a few more growing wild in my yard. Since those early days, I've done some trading with other individuals and have been growing orchids from seed. I have several hundred blooming size plants I show off the 3rd week of May if you are in the area. Many are rare clones. I now have over 1,000 plants in flask.

In short, I've found interesting spots whether I've looked for orchids in the mountains of Kentucky; on the shores of Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio; or farther north in the bogs and forests of the Bruce Peninsula of Ontario. Each place has its own orchids and charm to delight the explorer-photographer.

Editor's note: Information for Authors:

Knowledgeable individuals and in particular, members of the Native Orchid Conference are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the Journal. Any topic related to Orchids will be considered, such as conservation, cultivation, propagation, taxonomy, orchid-hunting expeditions and holidays, photography, meetings and shows, book or web-site reviews, questions, problems, controversial issues, etc. Articles may range in length from a single paragraph to about 2000 words. If a longer one is contemplated, please consult the Editor.

Articles may be submitted in hand-written or typed form, but MSWord is preferred, and files may be submitted via CD-ROM or e-mail.

Short titles fitting on a single line are preferred. See below for author's name and particulars. Orchid names may present problems, and it is strongly suggested the correct name and spelling of each species be ascertained. It is not uncommon to see a synonym or an obsolete name given for a species, and authors should be particularly cognizant of this when submitting a manuscript.

Review spelling, grammar, and punctuation prior to sending the article. The Editor and peers may also review it and you will be informed of any non-trivial changes recommended. The final article should represent your views (not necessarily those of the Editor/publisher or the Native Orchid Conference!).

Good quality color pictures may be submitted to illustrate the article. These may be appropriately captioned slides, prints or digital images. It may not be possible to print all pictures submitted, so ones of particular importance should be indicated. Pictures sent electronically should be in jpg format, and a suggested caption provided for each picture. Pictures and captions may be formatted with the text if a "hard" copy is sent for information purposes. In general, however, the manuscript text should be a separate electronic document from the pictures and captions.

Literature references should be in a standard format. In the text, only the author's name and publication date are required, e.g. Luer (1975). At the article's end, the corresponding full details should be given. Books should be listed as: Luer, C. A. 1975. The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida. New York: The New York Botanical Garden. 361pp. Journal articles should be in the format: Rolfe, R. A. 1910b. The Evolution of the Orchidaceae. Orchid Review 18(215): 321-325 (Nov).

Appendix - Word Processor Formats:

Page: US Letter, Left margin 1.2 inches, top, bottom, and right margins all one inch ; line spacing: single.

Main Title: Centered, Times New Roman (TNR), 10pt, initial capitals only.

Author: Centered, TNR, 8pt, no punctuation marks, e-mail address below, one line-space below.

Section Headings (if used): TNR, 10pt, flush left, initial capitals only.

Paragraph Text: TNR 10pt, justified left, 1-space indent.

Punctuation: Single space character following any punctuation mark.

Italics: Reserved for botanical names (compulsory!) and other foreign words.

At manuscript's end allow 1 space and add word count, e.g. (1,420 words).

Balance Sheet

Native Orchid Conference, Inc.
(as of 15 December, 2003)

Income:

Conference Registration:	$8,875.00	
Memberships:	1,725.00	
Book Sales:	688.31	
Donations:	641.00	
Total:		$12,029.31

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McMaster University (Conference facility fees)	$2,529.31	
Misc. Operating Expenses: (Bank Fees, Office supplies, Phone Cards, Postage, Printing)	1,415.36	
Speaker's Travel: (6 @ $200 per)	1,200.00	
Books:	712.08	
Conference Refunds (@ 75%)	412.50	
Incorporation Fee:	60.00	
Total:		$6,329. 88

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Respectfully submitted,

R. Mark Rose, Treasurer

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