

Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 4

May 2007

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Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting in San Francisco

The Odontoglossum Alliance held our annual meeting in San Francisco on 17 February. This meeting was held jointly with the local Pluerothallid Alliance. The meeting was a great success and I felt it was one of the best meetings of the Alliance ever.

Activities started with the Preview party at the San Francisco Orchid Show at Fort Mason on Thursday evening, 15 February. The show is large, being every bit as big as the Miami Orchid Show, but with a much wider range of orchid genera. Everything was on display from the coolest to the warmest growing species and hybrids. Equally large was the sales area with representation from the US, South America and the Far East. Little known species to fine hybrids to just good house and pot plants were available. The preview party has a tradition of providing a wine glass for all attendees with a large number of wine tasting stations. These represented a variety of local and near local wine producers with some very fine samples being available. And they never ran out of food during the several hours of the preview party. Tom Perlite's exhibit (Golden Gate Orchids) graced the main entrance to the show. There were some stunning new crosses displayed. I particularly like the cross Odm, Tribbles x Bonjong. Several plants were displayed and show a variety of flowers. One with an almost pure white flower about 2.5 inches across took my eye that was beautifully displayed.

Friday was a day for a detailed look at each exhibit with the many varieties of orchids. The sales area, very large, was another opportunity to for that something that you could not do without. Two interesting booths were a plant check booth where you could check your purchases and then continue shopping or viewing the show. Another interesting booth was the plant division stop. Here members of the San Francisco Orchid Society could contribute divisions of their plants for sale. An interesting method for raising a little money for their society at the show and at the same time taking some of the surplus out of the growing area.

Saturday started in the morning with greenhouse tours. The Beckendorf's, Steve and Cindy opened

their house in the morning not only with a tour of the greenhouse at their house, but also with a breakfast of fruit, rolls and coffee. The weather was perfect at 70 degrees F and a clear sunshine day. Steve has a fine collection of Alliance material, dominated by species. Cindy and Steve have taken over another greenhouse, a pretty old one, and refurbished it so that they have significant room. Cindy specializes in growing specimen plants and she had a good number of very large and beautifully grown specimens. Following this morning operation, the group proceeded to Pacifica where the greenhouses of Bob Hamilton, John Leathers and Tim Brydon do major growing. In the same location, Tom Perlite, Golden gate Orchids also has a large greenhouse devoted to seedling production.

Tom had set aside an entire bench of seedlings and mature plants (in bud) for sale. It was quickly picked over by a number of people who collected trays of fine material. Tom is one of the premier odont hybridizers and consistently produces award quality plants.

The greenhouse shared by John Leathers, Bob Hamilton and Tim Brydon is about 30' by 100', I would guess. John Leathers collection is of the cool growing Pluerothallid Alliance. The Pluerothallid people had the opportunity to see a very large collection of the finest type of that material. Bob and Tim grow the Odont Alliance material. Both are superb growers. They provided snacks, wine and coffee for the tour group. Also they are very generous and a number of people went away with a plant or division of fine material.

The tour closed down in the late afternoon, giving the Odont Alliance board of directors an opportunity to have a meeting before the dinner. The meeting and dinner was held at the St Francis Yacht Club. The Yacht club is located on the bay towards the Golden gate Bridge from Fort Mason, the show location. A beautiful and elegant setting. Arranging this as the location for the dinner was Page Healy a friend of Tom Perlite and an orchid grower. I don't think we could have found a better location in all of greater San Francisco. 65 people attended the dinner split equally between the Odontoglossum Alliance attendees and those of the Pluerothallid Alliance. This arrangement worked very well. The elaborate dining room overlooked the bay. As the event started the sun was just setting behind the bridge. As the evening progressed the lights across the bay in Berkeley shown for a beautiful sight. The cocktail hour preceded the dinner with wines selected by John Leathers and Bob Hamilton and generously provided by Howard Liebman. The food was excellent with the main entrée's being Dungeness crab cakes, sauté's pork or vegetable risotto. All this topped with a fine tiramisu dessert and coffee. Mario Ferrusi, President of the Odontoglossum Alliance was the master of ceremonies and kept the meeting to a fine pace. Between the main course and dessert, Jim Rassmann provided a short run down on his experiences attending the Orchid Show in Colombia in 2006 and the plans for the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting in Medellin, Colombia in August 2008. (More on this meeting in another article.) Kudos for this dinner go to Bob Hamilton for being the banker and to Steve Beckendorf who was our liaison with the Yacht Club.

Following dinner there were two very fine presentations. Juan Felipe Posada gave a talk on the fine orchids found in Colombia when the first explorers and plant collectors shipped them to Europe. Part I of the slides of his talk is provided in this newsletter. The balance of the slides will be in the next four newsletters. Walter Teague (walterteague@mac.com) provided insight in to the complicated Pluerothallid genera. Following these two fine talks was an auction of both Odont and Pluerothallid material. The Odont Alliance raised about \$2600 from its share of the auction. Thanks go to a large number of people who generously donated very fine and hard to obtain material. In addition to plant material there were books and original paintings of odonts done by Nellie Roberts. The auction was a lively event. We had a very large amount generously donated, both odont and Pluerothallid material. So much so that the material was divided between a live auction and a silent auction. The Odontoglossum Alliance realized \$2600.00 from the auction results, which more than covered our costs for the three-day event.

Thanks go to a number of people in addition to those already mentioned. Joe and Kathy Parker represented the Bay Area Pluerothallid Alliance. Carol Zoltowski, a member of both alliances, did the publicity and provided the nametags. Tom Perlite made the venue possible through his friend Page Healy a member of the St Francis Yacht Club and sponsored the event.

This event was really educational, interesting and above all fun. The companionship was especially pleasing. We had attendance from the East and west Coast, the mid west and Hawaii. I encourage each member of the Odontoglossum Alliance to think positively about attending our annual meeting. The next meeting will be in 2008 in Medellin Colombia. This will be a Seminole event for any odont grower and lover. We will be having more information on this meeting in this and subsequent newsletters.

Odontoglossum Meeting To Be held in Medellin, Colombia 5-10 August 2008

The Odontoglossum Alliance received an invitation to hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Orchid, Birds and Flowers Show in Medellin, Colombia, SA 5-10 August 2008. The Board of Directors at its annual meeting on 18 February 2007 has accepted the invitation. Juan Felipe Posada, Show Chairman, reiterated the invitation at the 2007 Odontoglossum Alliance meeting and dinner in San Francisco on 17 February. He gave a description of the events of the show and the time line of many significant activities throughout the city.

In August 2006 the Orchid Show in Bogotá, Colombia was attended by a number of our Odontoglossum Alliance members including Mr. and Mrs. James Rassmann, John Leathers, Bob Hamilton and Dr. Howard Liebman. To a person they extolled the way wonderful features and activities. They toured many greenhouses and collected numbers of plants. I refer you to the February 2007 Newsletter and the article by Bob Hamilton for many details of their visit. This is a wonderful opportunity to be in the country of the Odontoglossum species.

I have enclosed as a separate set of papers, the complete agenda for the show activities. The Odontoglossum Alliance will again be joined with the Pleurothallid Alliance for a dinner meeting and hopefully an auction of fine Pluerothallid and Odontoglossum Alliance material on Friday 8 August 2008. We will have instructions later on how such material can be shipped in and out of Colombia and to and from your residence.

Medellin is a safe and welcoming city. Spanish is the native language, but English is widely used. The airline fares are not unreasonable. The time change is modest from anywhere in the continental United States.

Here is quote from Bob Hamilton after returning from the 2006 show.

“John and I encourage and support coordinating meetings with the Colombian Show. John and I both immensely enjoyed Colombia and the exceptional treatment we received while there. We wanted for nothing! Our accommodations were first class. The hospitality of our hosts was extraordinary – quite a contrast from our visit to the WOC in Dijon. We look forward to our next Colombian visit. The plants at the show and at the

various nurseries we visited were eye openers; the seminars were first class - a cut above the presentations heard at the WOC or am used to at AOS events."

"I also felt secure in Colombia, fearing no personal risk except from the taxi drives. I enjoyed our e-mail comment about risk in Los Angeles. We are across the street from Oakland, CA. I have more apprehensions about shopping at our local Safeway than visiting Colombia. The horseback ride up the canyon was; however a bit on the dicey side - slick rocks, steep terrain.

You can count on us both in for a 2008 Medellin Odontoglossum/Pluerothallid event. This would be a real treat for our members and given the expense, a cost-effective, luxurious vacation." Bob Hamilton

The Odontoglossum Alliance, through the newsletters will be supplying more detailed information on attending this event. We are investigating securing the services of a travel agent to handle many of the details of going and coming from the event. The suggested list of hotels is below:

Poblado Plaza <http://www.hotelesestelar.com/php/plantillaHotel.php?hotel=9>

Park 10 <http://www.hotelpark10.com.co/esp/indexes.php>

Four Points Sheraton <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/fourpoints/property/overview/index.html?PropertyID=736>

Intercontinental Medellin <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hotel/mdeha?&>

While all these are first class hotels, we will select and recommend a preferred location to make coordination of activities easier. Juan Felipe Posada recommended that we make reservations early. Also he volunteered that we notify him of our arrival schedule and he will arrange for pick-up in Medellin.

Dues Notice

The payment of dues notice for some of our members is enclosed with this newsletter. If you do not find a notice with this mailing, your dues have been paid at least through 2008. For those receiving a notice, payment is requested before August 2007. Notice that if you pay for 2 years we will send you a copy of the book "Les Odontoglossums" by Leon Duval. Should you be paying for 2 years and already have a copy please indicate so on the notice.

Please examine the status of your membership and make any corrections needed. It is very important that you verify your e-mail address and/or add your email address. We have occasions where special notices need to be sent out. It is far more cost effective and much faster to email such notices. So please check that item especially.

Some Observations On Odontoglossums

I have long noted some aspects of the Odontoglossum Alliance that I should put to paper. After many delays here is the list I have compiled. Perhaps you the reader has some that can be added to this list.

The flower spike starts from the most recent growth coming from the side of the bulb with the tallest outside leaf. Some times a bulb will produce a second spike and that comes from the opposite side. With really strong growths, a plant may produce a third flower spike emanating from the top of the pseudobulbs.

If you have slugs the most serious damage comes from the slug eating through the flower spike near the base of the bulb and often inside the leaf such that the damage does not show. This leaves you with the tip of the

spike showing but never getting any longer until you discover the damage. Then it is a wait until next year. If the new growth has matured and you see the start of a new growth coming from the base of the bulb and the plant does not have a flower spike on the fully matured bulb, chances are the plant will not flower on that bulb. Then it is a wait until the latest growth matures for the plant to flower.

If you have scale on the plant and you want to clean it off, it is sometimes hard to find it all. One technique is to hold the plant up so the leaf is between you and a light. The scale will show up as a dark spot. Brush it off and see the spot disappear.

The short leaf covering the long leaf along the bulb breaks off first. It will break at a junction a couple of inches up from the bottom of the bulb. The leafs on each side of the bulb will break at a leaf junction.

If you see a new growth appearing, you won't see flowers from the bulb adjacent to it, except rarely. But if the flower spike starts up, you may later, (before blooming) see the new growth beginning.

Odontoglossum HBK

By Juan Felipe Posada

Juan Felipe Posada talk at the San Francisco meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance, 17 February was one of the highlights of the evening. His talk "Odontoglossums HBK" as presented was a shortened version, shorten because of time constraints. His complete talk is a power point presentation with very interesting color illustrations. There are some 114 slides altogether. With Juan Felipe's permission I shall be publishing his complete talk in a series of newsletters commencing with the May 2007 issue. The slides are printed six per page and the sequence order is illustrated in the table below.

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3	4
5	6

ODONTOGLOSSUM HBK

Juan Felipe Posada M.

- I. SHORT HISTORY OF THE GENUS
- II. CULTURE HISTORY
- III. MOST OUTSTANDING SPECIES OF THE GENUS
- IV. THE SPECIES THAT WE ONCE HAD
- V. SOME RARE SPECIES OR COLOR VARIETIES FOUND IN THE LAST DAYS
- VI. HYBRIDS AT COLOMBORQUIDEAS
- VII. ODONTOGLOSSUM FLOWERING AT COLOMBORQUIDEAS

I. SHORT HISTORY OF THE GENUS

Alexander Von Humbolt
1769 - 1859

It has been said with great reason that if Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, it was Humbolt who completed, with a second discovery the Spanish Adventure.

Humbolt's voyages to America between 1799 - 1804

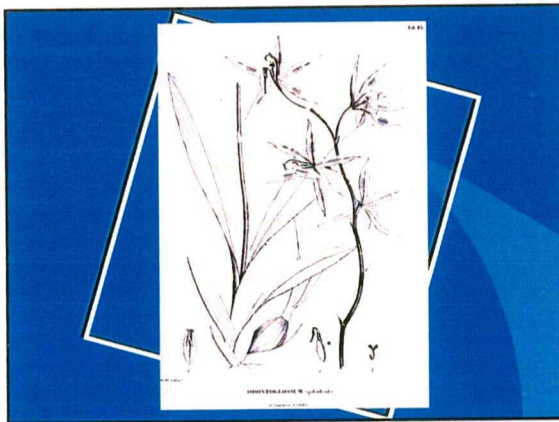
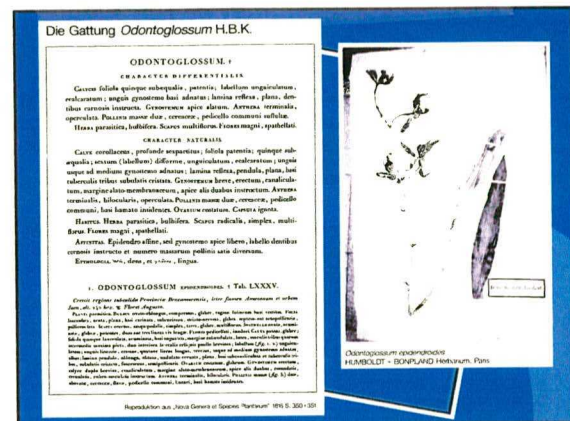


DESCRIPTION OF THE GENUS

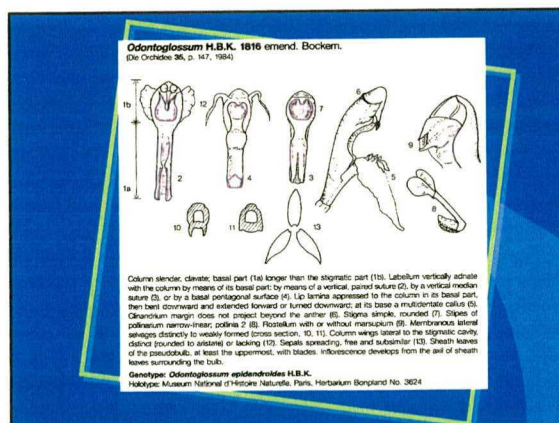
Alexander Von Humbolt, Aimé Bonpland and the botanist K. Kunth established the genus *Odontoglossum* in their monograph "Nova Genera et Species Plantarum" in 1816, based on the collection of *Odontoglossum epidendroides* that Humbolt and Bonpland had found during their trips to South America in 1802.

The original description was supplemented with a drawing (Plate 85) prepared on the basis of the herbarium material.

The name **epidendroides** was taken from the delineation of the genus *Epidendrum* by Swartz, at that time the most closely related genus



1. The name of the new genus by itself indicates an important character (from the greek): *odonto* = tooth, *glossa* = tongue; referring to the tongue like lip blade and its dentate callus structure.
2. The position of the lip with regard to the column is very clearly characterized by Humboldt: "Lip clawed claw narrow, erect, adnate up to the middle of the column...". This vertical adnation of the lip base and front of the column is a genotypic character.
3. The slender column is erect, canaliculate in front with winged margins. At its apex it has rounded wings.



"Lip with its base parallel and partially adnate to the column; lip lamina divergent with prominent callus. Relatively long column with or without wings. Two stiped pollinia.

Outstanding features in the history of the genus:

- Humbolt's herbarium burned in the Berlin Botanical Museum's fire in 1943.
- Another specimen (holotype) by Humbolt, that confirms and evidences the *Odontoglossum epidendroides* as the type of the genus, was found in the Natural History Museum in Paris.
- La Llave & Lexarza in 1825, Lindley in 1833, 1838 and 1852, Reichenbach in 1854, Schlechter in 1914 and Kraenzlin in 1922, all at their time misinterpreted Humbolt's description, and this is the reason for so many mistakes, synonyms and wrong identifications in the past.

It is worthwhile to mention that almost all the time they worked with herbarium material and very general latin descriptions, lacking of details.

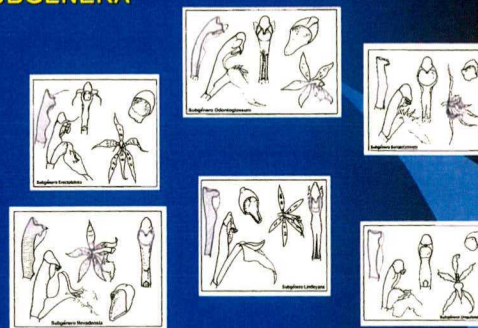
In 1880 Lehman found once again the *Odontoglossum epidendroides*, suspected that this was Humbolt's true type. He send it to Reichenbach who did not recognize it. From then on the *Odontoglossum epidendroides* remained lost for another 100 years.

It was only after the rediscovery of the type species, *Odontoglossum epidendroides* in 1982, that once again the fine structure of live material (flowers) could be studied to understand and describe the genotypic characters and in this way revise and rearrange the genus according to natural criteria.

According to L. Bockemuhl in 1989:

Names validly published in the genus	
<i>Odontoglossum</i>	325
a) Species transferred to other genera	137
b) Species still to be excluded	22
Names strictly belonging to <i>Odontoglossum</i>	166
a) Synonyms	32
b) Varieties or subspecies	6
c) Natural Hybrids	70
Consequently remaining valid species in the strict limits of H.B.K.	58

SUBGENERA



Actually Stig Dalstrom is studying and completely revising the genus *Odontoglossum*, this and "recent genetic data with DNA sequences" only promise great changes, new groups and names.

But even with different names or groupings we will always recognize and love our:

ODONTOGLOSSUMS

II. CULTURE HISTORY

At the turn of the 20 th. Century (around 1900) many famous orchid nurseries grew with dedication and speciality "Odontoglots".

Some of the most famous that we still remember today for their very important work in culture, propagation and hybridation are:

- Sanders (England)
- Stuart Low & Co. (England)
- James Veitch and Sons (England)

- Charlesworth & Co. (England)
- Mansell & Hatcher (England)
- McBeans Orchids (England)
- Vacherot & Lecoufle (France)
- J. and Lucien Linden (Belgium)
- Charles Vuylsteke (Belgium)

Unfortunately almost all these famous orchid establishments have disappeared and really very few new ones have come to continue their work.

MILESTONES:

1853: James Veitch's Nursery flowers the 1st orchid hybrid, *Calanthe Dominy*

1850-1900: Victorian Orchid Craze

1890: Edmund Rothschild flowers the 1st *Odontoglossum* hybrid, *Odm Wilkeanum*, (also found as a natural hybrid)

1904: Vuylsteke flowers the first *Odontoglossum* intergeneric, *Oda Vuylstekeae*

1922: Lewis Knudsen discovers asymbiotic culture.

Circa 1960: George Morel discovers meristem culture. Vacherot & Lecoufle introduces *Odontoglossum* meristems.

The *Odontoglossums* were plants of slow vegetative propagation and consequently the only way to increase the stock was with a perfect seedling culture, this was an attractive proposal for any grower in those times when crosses or hybrids were starting. These first hybrids were grown by placing the seed in the pots around the mother plant, where if lucky you would obtain some germination..

Charlesworth & Co was probably the one that understood better the concept of orchid seeds needing a microscopic fungus for their germination. This turned out in the sowing of the seeds in direct contact with the fungus using glass covers. These were the first steps to the asymbiotic culture that is used today.



Charles Vuylsteke (1867 – 1937)

Introduces *Oda Vuylstekeae* in 1904 at the Temple Show, in London
1st Intergeneric *Odontoglossum*



Odontioda Vuylstekeae

(*Cochlioda noezliana* x *Odontoglossum nobile*) - RHS 1904



**XV "ORCHIDS, BIRDS AND FLOWERS SHOW" AND
HANDCRAFT FAIR
XXXIII INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW OF COLOMBIA
ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL OF MEDELLÍN
AUGUST 5 TO 10, 2008**

SHOW INFORMATION

Location	Botanical Garden of Medellín Orquideorama, special show area
Setting up of Stands for the Show Inscription of Exhibitors	Monday , August 4, 2008 Tuesday , August 5, 2008 8:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Inscription and registration of plants	Tuesday , August 5, 2008 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. US\$2.00 per plant
Giving of Identification Cards (Exhibitors are entitled to a free id card)	Tuesday , August 5, 2008 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. US \$15.00 each
Setting up of Commercial Stands	Wednesday , August 6, 2008 8:00 a.m. - 12::00 noon
Judging - AOS in plants, flowers and stands - CCO in Colombian species - Ribbons and Trophies - Stand design	Wednesday , August 6, 2008 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Inaugural Coctail Party Celebration of XXXII International Orchid Show of Colombia XV Show of "Orchids, Birds and Flowers"	Wednesday , August 6, 2008 7:00 p.m. US\$30.00, includes drinks and dinner

Integration Activities

Special guests: Foreign and Colombian Exhibitors

Show open to the public

Taking down of Stands

Thursday, August 7, 2008

- Visit to the Show
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 51st annual Flower Parade
2:00 p.m.
US\$45.00 per person.
US\$25.00 per person in groups of 20 or more.
- Night tour of the city in a typical bus with drinks and live music
US\$ 15.00

Friday, August 8, 2008

- Visit to Colomborquideas for Exhibitors and Lecturers of the Odontoglossum and Pleurothallid Alliances
9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Meetings of the Odontoglossum and Pleurothallid Alliances
6:00 p.m.
- Orchid Auction and Dinner
8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 9, 2008

- Bus tour to the area rural east of Medellín
Visit to orchid collections, includes lunch and refreshments
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
US\$40.00

Sunday, August 10, 2008

- Bus tour to the rural area southwest of Medellín.
Visit to orchid collections, includes lunch and refreshments
US\$40.00

Thursday to Sunday,

August 7, 8, 9 and 10 from
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 11, 2008

8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

FLOWER FESTIVAL, AUGUST 2008

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 2, 2008

- Cavalcade
- Children's Flower Parade
- Flea Market

Sunday, August 3, 2008

- Flea Market
- Caravan of "Chivas" (typical busses) adorned with flowers.
- Parade of bands

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

- Inaugural Coctel for the XXXII International Orchid Show of Colombia, and the XV "Orchids, Birds and Flowers" Show and Handcraft Fair
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 7, 2008
National Holiday

- Flower parade
- XXXII International Orchid Show and XV "Orchids, Birds and Flowers" Show open

Friday, August 8, 2008

- Horse Show
- Exhibition of Muleteers, Mules and typical Inns
- XXXII International Orchid Show and XV "Orchids, Birds and Flowers" Show open

Saturday, August 9, 2008

- Parade of antique and classic cars.
- Horse Show
- Exhibition of Muleteers, Mules and typical Inns
- XXXII International Orchid Show and XV "Orchids, Birds and Flowers" Show open

Sunday, August 10, 2008

- Horse Show
- Exhibition of Muleteers, Mules and typical Inns
- XXXII International Orchid Show and XV "Orchids, Birds and Flowers" Show open

**XV "ORCHIDS, BIRDS AND FLOWERS" SHOW AND
HANDCRAFT FAIR
XXXII INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW OF COLOMBIA
ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL OF MEDELLÍN
AUGUST 6 TO 10, 2008**

SPECIAL EVENTS:

TICKET TO THE INAUGURAL COCTAIL PARTY
WHICH INCLUDES OPEN BAR AND DINNER

US\$30.00

IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR UNLIMITED ENTRIES
TO THE SHOW

US\$15.00

EXHIBITORS ARE ENTITLED TO A FREE ID CARD.
ALL DAY BUS TOUR TO THE RURAL AREA EAST
OF MEDELLÍN, INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION,
LUNCH, AND REFRESHMENTS.

US\$40.00

ALL DAY BUS TOUR TO THE RURAL AREA
SOUTHWEST OF MEDELLÍN, INCLUDES
TRANSPORTATION, LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS

US\$40.00

NIGHT TOUR OF THE CITY IN A TYPICAL BUS WITH
DRINKS AND LIVE MUSIC

US\$15.00

51ST ANNUAL FLOWER PARADE, A UNIQUE SIGHT
AS THE FLOWERS ARE MOUNTED ON HEAVY FRAMES
AND CARRIED ON THE BACKS OF COUNTRY PEOPLE
INDIVIDUAL
IN GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE

US\$45.00

US\$25.00 per person

COMMERCIAL STANDS

Type A, 3 meters x 2 meters

US\$600.00

Type B, 2 meters x 1.5 meters

US\$500.00

Show exhibitors will be given a 50% discount.

**XXXII INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW
OF COLOMBIA
AUGUST 6 TO 10, 2008**

HOTEL - RATES

HOTEL	SINGLE	DOUBLE
INTERCONTINENTAL MEDELLÍN	US 100	US 100
POBLADO PLAZA	US 105	US 120
PARK 10	US 105	US 120
FOUR POINTS SHERATON	US 102	US 110

THE ROOM RATES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- BUFFET BREAKFAST IN THE RESTAURANT
 - WELCOME COCTAIL
 - RECREATIONAL AREAS
 - MEDICAL ATTENTION
 - INTERNET SERVICE
- THESE RATES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX.
- THE RATES CITED ARE VALID FOR 2007. AS CAN BE EXPECTED, THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN 2008

THE OFFICIAL HOTEL FOR THE COMBINED EVENTS OF THE XXXII INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW AND THE XV "ORCHIDS, BIRDS AND FLOWERS" SHOW AND HANDCRAFT FAIR IS THE INTERCONTINENTAL, MEDELLÍN. TO OBTAIN THE SPECIAL RATES, RESERVATIONS FOR THIS HOTEL SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE COLOMBIAN ORCHID SOCIETY: FAX (574)233-8952; E-MAIL socorqui@une.net.co