

British Orchid Congress - Science and Conservation Symposium

Writhlington School, 3rd November 2018

A highlight of the British Orchid Congress is a Science and Conservation Symposium that includes lectures exploring a wide range of orchid research. Speakers include a number of early career scientists and the event is expected to generate some lively debate!

The Congress runs from Friday 2nd November to Sunday 4th November and features orchid displays and sales from across Europe as well as a separate public lecture programme, a hardy orchid day on Sunday 4th November, tours of the Writhlington School Orchid Project facilities, refreshments and other activities.

Registrants for the Science and Conservation Symposium will have free entry to the British Orchid Congress and Show throughout Saturday 3rd November.

Registration for the Science and Conservation Symposium costs £10, Registration for the full three day congress (including the symposium and many other events) costs £35 single and £55 joint. Further details and an online registration forms can be found at www.wsbeorchids.org/bos2018

Science and conservation symposium programme - Saturday 3rd November 2018

Time	speaker	title
10.20-11.00	Dino Zelenika	Orchid Conservation in Myanmar
11.00-11.40	Phil Seaton	Colombia part 2: Bogota to Medellin and a return to Cali
11.40-12.00	Coffee	
12.00-12.30	Rudolf Jenny	Stanhopea and its fascinating pollination
12.30-1.10	Leif Bersweden	Species Integrity and Gene Flow in Anthropomorphic Orchis species
1.10-2.00	Lunch	
2.00-2.40	Roberta Gargiulo	"The lady's slipper orchid, <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i> : genetic diversity over space and time"
2.40-3.20	Ian Parsons	Techniques of Close-Up Photography of Orchids
3.20-4.00	Coffee	

Speaker Information

Leif Bersweden - 'Species Integrity and Gene Flow in Anthropomorphic Orchis species'



Leif Bersweden was born in 1994 and grew up as a botanist in rural Wiltshire. He graduated with a degree in Biology from Oxford and is currently a PhD student at Kew Gardens. He is a published author and a botanical tutor, running plant identification training courses for The Species Recovery Trust. In a world where an interest in botany is becoming increasingly rare, he wants to help put plants back on the map and he's endeavoring to do this through his teaching, research and publications.

The word 'orchid' commonly conjures up images of exotic, extravagant blooms in far-flung corners of the rainforest – or perhaps the gaudy display welcoming you into your local supermarket. Rarely, if ever, would you imagine plants with human-like flowers growing in fields surrounding a quaint English village, or high up in the French mountains. Yet such plants exist. Their names seem fanciful: man, monkey, lady and military orchids. But a glance at these charismatic plants quickly reveals why

they are so aptly named: their petals resemble little people – they have arms and legs – and as such they are referred to as being anthropomorphic. It might sound like something out of a fairy tale, but there is more to these innocent-looking plants than meets the eye.

Roberta Gargiulo - The lady's slipper orchid, *Cypripedium calceolus*: genetic diversity over space and time



Roberta Gargiulo is an Early Career Research Fellow in Conservation Genetics at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. After a degree in Biology, she obtained her PhD working on plant phylogenetics and population genetics at the University of Naples "Federico II" (Italy). Her research interest is currently focused on population genetics and conservation of priority species using genomic tools.

Dino Zelenika - Orchid Conservation in Myanmar



Myanmar (Burma) is the most biodiverse country in mainland southeast Asia, home to virtually every habitat apart from true desert and tundra. From steamy, hot jungles and mangrove forests on golden sandy beaches in the south to the mighty snow-capped Mt. Hkakabo Razi in the north (5,881 m/ 19,255ft), southeast Asia's highest mountain, Myanmar has incredibly diverse ecosystems. Nearly 50% of its area is forested.

However, the environment of this beautiful country is under threat and in response Thant Sin Aye, a Burmese junior doctor from Yangon (Rangoon), and Dino Zelenika, owner of Real Escape Travel, decided to start a conservation project and social enterprise in Myanmar. United by a love of nature, conservation and orchids (in which

Myanmar is particularly rich), they decided to establish a nature reserve and social enterprise in Shan State (eastern Myanmar)

Phil Seaton - Colombia part 2: Bogota to Medellin and a return to Cali



Phil is committed to conservation through education informed by science.

"endeavouring to explain how we have got where we are today in terms of species loss ... and what we can be doing to help ameliorate the problem."

"Since giving his first talk on Colombia at the Norwich Congress in 2016 Phil has been back to Colombia to deliver a talk and a workshop at the botanical gardens in Bogotá. While there he took the opportunity to travel to Medellin and Cali to visit botanical gardens, private collections, orchid nurseries and to see an orchid restoration project.

Rudolf Jenny - Stanhopea and its fascinating pollination



Rudolf Jenny is chemist by training and was active in environmental and ozone-technology, for some years with his own company, until his retirement in 2008.

He has been working with orchids for more than 45 years, had a very large collection of tropical orchid plants until 1995. Over many years, he has traveled in Central and South America in connection with his studies in pollination ecology and taxonomy of orchids. He has published some 500 articles in many of the world's leading orchid journals and published monographs of the genera *Gongora*, *Stanhopea*, *Paphinia* and *Sievekingia*. Recently he published the first part of a planned book-series about the history of orchids and the history of the involved collectors, amateurs, botanists and growers.

Ian Parsons - Techniques of Close-Up Photography of Orchids



Ian will share his experience and cover a wide range of topics

- What is Close-up Photography?
- Macro and Micro Photography.
- Some basic optics.
- Choices of lens and cameras.
- Depth of Field.
- Frame stacks.
- Free software to produce pictures from stacks.
- Experimental equipment and systems for less than £100!

- Some results!