

GOING NATIVE

The 3rd Annual Native Orchid Conference will be held August 7 to 10 in Conway, South Carolina. The presentations portion of the conference will be held at Coastal Carolina University on Saturday and Monday (August 7 and 9) with field trips to local areas along the coast on alternate days of the

meetings on August 8 and 10. The speakers include Jim Fowler (An Introduction to the Orchids of South Carolina), Alan Weakley (Orchid Habitats of the Southeastern United States), Marilyn Light (Long Term Study: Conservation Payoff) and Lucy Dueck (The *Spiranthes* Genetics Project: A Preview).

Registration is limited to the first 100 people who mail in responses. All registrations must be done via mail; there will be no registrations at the door. The conference cost is \$100 per person or \$175 per couple and includes lunch during the two days of meetings at Coastal Carolina University.

During the field trips, participants who go out into the field can expect to see the following orchids in flower:

Epidendrum magnoliae (syn. *conopseum*) (green fly orchid)

Habenaria repens (water spider orchid)

Platanthera blephariglottis var. *conspicua* (large white fringed orchid)

Platanthera ciliaris (yellow fringed orchid)

Platanthera cristata (yellow crested orchid)

Platanthera flava var. *flava* (southern rein orchid)

Platanthera integra (yellow fringeless orchid)

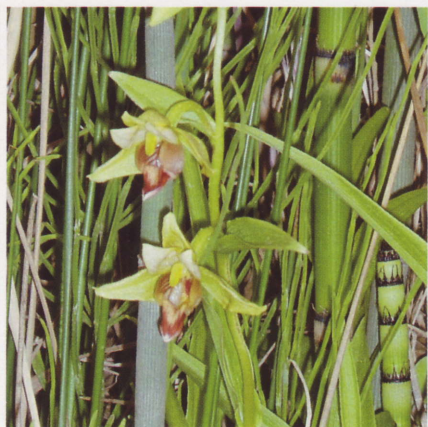
Additionally, there should be an opportunity to see several natural hybrids, including *Platanthera* ×*bicolor* and *Platanthera* ×*channellii*.

Information and registration forms are available from David McAdoo (telephone 336-996-2324; e-mail ncorchid@yahoo.com) and Mark Rose (telephone 336-656-7991; e-mail nativeorchids@yahoo.com).



LEFT The crested yellow orchid (*Platanthera cristata*) will be in flower during the Native Orchid Conference.

Special Report/*Epipactis gigantea* in Marble Canyon



IN May 2004, I had the pleasure of taking a rafting trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. As with virtually all such trips, we began in Lees Ferry, a few miles downstream from Glen Canyon Dam. At the end of the second day, we stopped for the night on the west bank of the river 50 miles downstream from Lees Ferry and just over 10 miles upstream from the confluence of the Little Colorado River. These first 60 miles of the trip are named Marble Canyon.

After setting up camp, I strolled downstream a few hundred feet to find a place to bathe. As I stepped out of the chilly waters, I was startled to be staring at an orchid, *Epipactis gigantea*, growing among the scouring rushes, *Equisetum* sp. These plants were growing at the typical high-water mark of the river, assuming normal diurnal fluctuations in releases from Glen Canyon Dam



ROOT GORELICK, PHD

(typically up to 12,000 cubic feet per second).

Epipactis gigantea goes by the common names helleborine, chatterbox and stream orchid. The most commonly used synonym is *Helleborine gigantea*. It has an extensive distribution, growing in riparian areas west of the Rocky Mountains of the United States, into southern British Columbia, and into central Mexico, according to C.A. Luer in his 1975 book, *The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada* (New York

ABOVE LEFT *Epipactis gigantea* is known by the common names helleborine, chatterbox and stream orchid.

ABOVE *Epipactis gigantea* was found growing on this shaded beach in Marble Canyon (right of photograph).

Botanical Garden, Bronx). — *Root Gorelick, PhD, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85287 (e-mail cycad@asu.edu).*