



# WOS Newsletter

A Windward Orchid Society Publication

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## Back To Nature . . . Preserving The Species

Common species of orchids that once grew abundantly in the wild are slowly becoming rare or extinct. Everyday forests are being destroyed in the name of progress and development.

As an example, the once common *Cattleya skinneri*, the national flower of Costa Rica, is so rare in nature (although a standard in private collections), that it is now listed on Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

In the hobbyist arena, growers have become so accustomed to the more lavish and spectacular hybrids that they have little appreciation for species. Some consider them too ordinary and will not grow them. As a result formerly common species are gradually becoming the exotic variety of orchids. Registered orchid hybrids now outnumber orchid species by 3 to 1.

We live in an altered, artificial world because human nature dictates that we constantly strive to improve on nature. It is time that we stop to do some soul-searching and evaluate where we're going. It is well to remember that species have parented many fabulous hybrids over the years and this gene pool should not lapse into oblivion.

As a hobbyist, help to preserve the source species. Dedicate a portion of your collection to species plants.

(Note: Species--it's spelled with an "s" whether singular or plural--is a plant that naturally came from nature as opposed to a hybrid, which is a plant bred by man.)

## M. Miyamoto Award To Be Established

The orchid world, and Hawaii in particular, has lost one of its finest figures when Masatoshi "Miya" Miyamoto passed away on April 22, 1991.

Miya's accomplishments in hybridizing made him internationally famous. Although he worked with dendrobiums, vandas and cattleyas, he is best known for his selective breeding techniques which produced intense colors of red, orange and yellow in the cattleya alliance. He introduced a whole new spectrum of vibrant colors heretofore unheard of in the orchid world.

Miya also created the finest *Vanda sanderiana* clones. His most famous orchid is known worldwide as *Laeliocattleya waianae sunset*, a red-flowered hybrid. While he is famous for his accomplishments with orchids, Miya is remembered by those who were privileged to know him personally as a kind and gentle man who always had time to share

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## Invitation Extended To 69th Maui County Fair

The Maui Orchid Society and the Orchidland Committee of the 69th Maui County Fair have cordially extended an invitation to members of the Windward Orchid Society to view their orchid display at the War Memorial Gymnasium, Wailuku, Maui, from October 4-8, 1991.

In addition to the orchid show, there will be other exhibits and activities at the Maui County Fair for you to enjoy.

