



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

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For Immediate Release

MBGNA wins the prestigious 2006 Jesup trophy and the 2006 Masatoshi Miyamoto Award for the orchid, *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Alberts'

Ann Arbor, Mich. (December 18, 2007) – The orchid, *Cattleya percivaliana*, was originally found in the Venezuelan highlands growing naturally in trees and rock faces and is known for its ability to thrive in rugged environmental conditions, while producing brilliantly beautiful blooms. Perhaps for this reason there are societies formed just to honor and share knowledge about this plant and other orchids. The American Orchid Society is one of those societies.

Each year in October the Trustees of the American Orchid Society (AOS) grant special awards for the most outstanding orchids seen at judging centers and shows around the world from the previous year. This year the AOS gave two special awards to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (MBGNA) for the growing of *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Alberts' which won a Certificate of Cultural Merit December, 2006.

MBGNA was awarded the Ann and Phil Jesup Botanical Trophy and the Masatoshi Miyamoto Cattleya Alliance Award. The Jesup trophy was established in 2001 for the grower of the most outstanding orchid species. The Miyamoto award is granted to the grower of the most outstanding member of the Cattleya family. These awards are two of the highest honors that the AOS can bestow upon orchid growers.

Connie Crancer is the Collections and Natural Area Specialist who oversees the orchid collection, which the Cattleya 'Alberts' plant is a part of, states that the plant was an anonymous donation to the Gardens in 1995. Connie works with a team of dedicated volunteers to maintain the collection. An article about the awards can be seen in the February edition of *Orchids*.

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The Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum (MBGNA) is 720 combined acres of gardens, trails, woods and prairie. With events, programs, classes, and activities, MBGNA is open every day of the year for visitors, with the Matthaei Botanical Garden visitor center closed on Mondays, and the Reader Center at the Nichols Arboretum closed Saturdays and Sundays. The Gardens are located at 1800 N. Dixboro Road. The Arboretum is located at 1600 Washington Heights.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum is owned by the University of Michigan, and celebrated its centennial anniversary this year. The mission of MBGNA is to promote environmental enjoyment, stewardship, and sustainability through education, research, and interaction with the natural world.