

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, July 17, 2006
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: New Orchid Discoveries in Ecuador **LOU JOST**

Lou will give a presentation on his Orchid discoveries, many of them found near his home in Baños, Ecuador. They include over 28 new species of Teagueia, 9 new species of Lepanthes, and others. Lou will discuss the unique habitat in which these orchids grow.

Lou Jost has been fascinated by nature since he was little. He got his first bird field guide at the age of nine and was growing tropical orchids in his parents' basement in Wisconsin at age 11. He is a physicist and mathematician by training, but he was lured away from equations and laboratories by the vibrant life of tropical forests. He has lived in Costa Rica, Mexico, and Ecuador photographing, painting and studying the birds and plants. He illustrated the book 'Common Birds of Amazonian Ecuador' (written by Chris Canaday) and now he is doing an intensive study of the biogeography of Ecuadorian orchids. He has discovered over 50 new orchid species in the course of this study. His paintings and articles can be seen at www.loujost.com.

CULTURE SESSION: Orchids that can be grown outside in the Bay Area

One of our members will present on orchids that can be grown outside in the Bay Area given our local conditions. Be sure not to miss this exciting topic!

July 2006

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Pleione Culture	3
Bay Area AOS Awards	4
Contact Us	4
Announcements	5
Classifieds	5

Meeting Details

- Plant sales will open at 6:30 PM.
 - Pre-program culture session starts at 7:00 PM
 - Meeting starts at 7:30 PM.
 - Raffle table will be provided by OSC members
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Dinner with the Speaker

The Speaker's Dinner will be at the Ta Ke Sushi Bar, 357 Grand Avenue, just south of the park. The restaurant serves a variety of cooked Japanese dishes as well as sushi and sashimi.

Dinner is at 5:30 PM

Raffle Table Volunteers

July - Stig Bjork & Mary Lou Smith
August - Sharalyn Stebben & Kay Greisen

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from Lathrop to Quincy are responsible for bringing refreshments to the July meeting. If it is your turn to bring refreshments, you are also responsible for participating in the set-up and clean-up. If you are unable to bring refreshments, please make a monetary donation. Those that provide refreshments are entitled to participate in a drawing for the first choice of raffle plants.

Calendar

Greenhouse Tours

Native Orchids Hike

July 23, 2006 Sunday

We will be meeting in front of the Lakeside Garden Center @ 9a.m. and car pooling to The Pescadero area (or meet us at the Park and Ride parking lot, near the junction of highway 92 and Skyline at 10am). We will be walking for about an hour through the Pescadero area led by well known photographer, lecturer, and orchid grower Ron Parsons. Some of the native, wild growing orchids we hope to see are *Piperia elegans* and *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*. Then we will go to another site in San Bruno (a 25 minute drive) for another short walk. Bring water and lunch or a snack. There will be a fee of \$5 for members, and \$10 for non members. Any questions? or comments? Let me know Mimi Rose rose4mimi@yahoo.com 510 569-8683

Directions: HWY 880 south or HWY 580 to HWY 238 on to HWY 880 south/San Jose. Continue to HWY 92/San Mateo Bridge, exit toward bridge. Continue across the bay on the San Mateo Bridge pass HWY 101 and HWY 280 to Skyline blvd. Turn south (left) :look for Park and Ride parking lot 50-100 yards south on the left hand side.

August 1, 2006

Andy Huber of GROWISER preserve will talk on conservation. 7:30 p.m. Tues. Free. San Francisco County Fair Building, Lincoln Way and Ninth Ave, Golden Gate Park, S.F. (415) 665-2468. www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

August 21, 2006

The August meeting will be our annual ice cream social and auction. All members are welcome for free ice cream and soda and may participate in the auction. The society asks if you can donate extra orchids to be auctioned off. The orchid should be established, bug-free and not have any diseases. The more orchids we have the more variety and fun we'll have.



All About Pleiones

Where to grow them?

Pleiones come from areas with distinct seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and grow best wherever the average summer temperatures do not exceed 25 centigrade (though a few odd days up to 30 centigrade is tolerated). In winter, while they are dormant, they need to be kept cold but just frost-free. A range between 1 and 5 centigrade is ideal. If need be, small numbers can be kept in a fridge if your winters are usually too warm. Within these restraints they may be grown on a windowsill, in a glasshouse or coldframe and may be outside for those months that are frost-free. In areas with few and gentle frosts they can even be planted in the garden.

Containers

Clay or plastic pots can be used and both have their devotees. Clays may need watering more frequently but the evaporation from their surface helps to keep the roots cool and provides humidity around the plants. Plastics need less frequent watering, are easier to clean and lighter to use. Many growers use half pots, pans or seed trays, as Pleiones are shallow rooting in the wild, while a few use deeper pots.

Potting and Compost

Pleiones can be potted or re-potted anytime while they are dormant. I usually do mine in late January/early February. Any old compost should be cleaned off and the old roots trimmed back. Some trim them very short - to 1cm or so- while others prefer to leave them rather longer to help anchor the pseudobulb in the new compost. The pseudobulbs should be planted with approximately one third their depth sticking out above the compost and spaced about 2cm apart. A few seem to prefer being completely buried (*P. bulbocodioides*, *yunnanensis*, *limprichtii* and *scopulorum*). They will grow in a variety of compost mixes, the main requisites being that the mix should be very "open" and free draining. I have used two different mixes: (All "parts" are by volume):

2 parts bark and 1 part moss. The moss may be wood moss or sphagnum. The bark can be medium grade orchid bark or even a good quality mulching bark.

2 parts fine grade orchid bark, 3 parts sphagnum moss, one part perlite. This mix holds more water and I find that the species and hybrids do better in this mix for me. I now use this mix for everything.

Many other mixes are suitable - you can use pure wood moss or pure sphagnum, or a mix containing these along with such ingredients as bark, pine needles, leafmould, coarse peat, perlite

and others - the main aim is to get a "scrunchy" or spongy, open and free-draining mix. There are as many recipes as there are growers!

Watering

The critical time is early in the season. The roots usually start to grow more or less as the flowers fade and at this time it is important to give only a little water - the aim is to keep the compost only-just damp and make the newly-emerging roots go searching for moisture. If the mix is too wet at this time there is a danger the new roots will rot. Once however the roots are well established (often evidenced by rapid leaf growth) watering can be increased substantially. Pleiones come from areas which get the summer monsoon. As long as your mix is very free draining, it is difficult to give them too much water once they are actively growing. Rain water, soft tap water or RO (reverse-osmosis) are best. If you have very hard tap water, this is OK but I would be cautious about keeping them too wet. If possible, keep them open to the weather in summer so they can be rained on. They love it! Personally I take the roof glass out of the glasshouse they are in so the rain can fall in on them. It also keeps them cooler. As days shorten in the autumn, growth slows and finally stops and the leaves start to go yellow. This is the time to reduce watering and as the leaf colour starts to go brown, stop watering altogether and allow them to completely dry out. The leaves will finally fall off and the pseudobulbs enter their dormant phase.

Feeding

Pleiones need to be fed to build up the pseudobulbs for flowering the following year. They like regular but weak feeds with a liquid fertilizer. The old adage of "weakly weekly" comes to mind. Feeding should start once the leaves start to grow quickly. Personally I feed once a week with fertilizer at one-third of the recommended strength.

Light and Air

When grown under glass, Pleiones need to be shaded from direct, bright sunshine. A shade cloth giving about 50% shade is ideal, or the glass can be painted with a traditional style white-wash. Outside they can tolerate full sun but it is more usual to provide somewhere semi-shaded, for example in the shade of a tree providing dappled light. They also enjoy fresh air, so provide plenty of ventilation. If outside you may also need to think about some protection from birds and other wildlife. Growing inside a fruit cage would be ideal.

- Paul Cumbleton www.pleione.info



AOS Awards

**Pacific Central Supplemental Center
San Francisco, June 6, 2006**

**Masdevallia Monarch 'Cow Hollow'
(Masd. macrura x Masd. veitchiana)
Exhibited by Anna S. Chai
CCM 82**

**Bulbophyllum frostii 'Ruby Slippers'
species
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
CCM 84**

**Cleisocentron merrilianum 'Astrea'
species
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn
CBR (prov)**

**Laelia purpurata 'Lillian Sparks'
species
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn
AM 81**

**Lycaste unnamed hybrid '06-06-06'
(Lyc. Rowland x Lyc. aromatica)
Exhibited by Japheth Ko
HCC 77 (prov)**

**Pacific Central Judging Center,
Oakland, June 20, 2006**

Awards not Yet Posted

For more information and pictures please
visit the Pacific Judging web site:
<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

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Announcements

November Awards Banquet Cancelled

The Board of Directors has reluctantly voted to cancel the awards banquet that has been a part of the annual November Show for many, many years. The reasons included declining attendance, rising costs of caterers making it prohibitively expensive for most members, and too few people to handle the enormous amount of work to organize the food service, table setups, featured speaker, ticketing, and trophies. All awards from the November Show will be announced at the OSC general meeting that follows the show. This, typically, is less than a week after the actual show. Any concerns anyone may have regarding this decision should be brought up at the general meeting, or taken to any Board member.

MOTHERS DAY SALE Thank You's

As you all know the Mothers Day Sale is our major fund raising event of the year. This years Mothers Day Sale was a great success thanks to the hard work of a lot of our members. Enough money was raised to ensure that we will continue to have fine speakers at our meetings for the coming year as well as other benefits such as the ice cream social and our monthly newsletter. Those of you who volunteered to work a couple of hours at the sale can enjoy the results of your efforts in the coming year.

While the sale functioned smoothly this year we can always improve the way we conduct the event. If you have any thoughts on how to improve the mechanics of the sale please pass them on the Paul Chim so that he can forward them to next year's chairman.

The Society thanks all members who supported the sale. In addition we wish to recognize the following named members who dedicated their whole weekend to the success of the sale and had a little fun along the way:

Dan Chiappone, Paul Chim, John Chu, William Chu, Heather Drobos, Noble Emery, Trudy Hadler, George McRae, Tanya Phillips, Agnes Radell, Fred Shull, Earle Stebben, Musia Stagg, Jane Taushima.

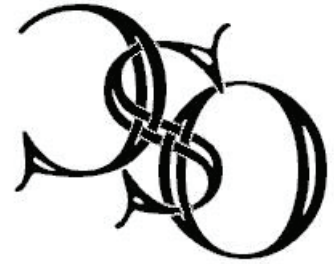
Classifieds

FOR SALE

Greenhouse for sale! Five years old, great condition. 10' x 12', redwood and twin-wall, fully automatic, all systems included. Has swamp cooler, misting system, heating system, timing units, vented ceiling, lights, shade cloth, brick floor. Photos available. Asking \$2500 or best offer. Contact Susan Valenta (925) 989-0289 cell or susanvalenta@earthlink.net.

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The first orchid society west
of the Mississippi, est. 1937



Orchid Society of California
360 Grand Avenue #129
Oakland, CA 94610

FIRST CLASS MAIL

In this issue:

- ⇒ Lou Jost - New Orchid Discoveries**
- ⇒ Greenhouse Tours**
- ⇒ Pleione Culture**
- ⇒ Greenhouse for sale— see Classifieds**

www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
