

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, August 16, 2004
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: Temperature Tolerant, Low-Light, Vandas Dr. Martin Motes from Motes Orchids, Florida

Vandas have a reputation for being difficult to grow outside the tropics because they require warm temperatures and high light. So this month's talk by Vanda expert Dr. Martin Motes on "Temperature Tolerant, Low-Light Vandas" is intriguing, because it is about vandas that are suitable for growing in temperate greenhouses, or even windowsills or under lights!

Dr. Martin Motes is a second generation orchidist who has been growing orchids for 45 years. He is president of Motes Orchids, a major breeder of Vandas. He has produced hundreds of new hybrids, for which he has received scores of A.O.S. awards including three FCC's and three Awards of Quality. He is also an accredited A.O.S. judge. He has spoken at orchid conferences around the world. His articles have appeared in The Fairchild Garden Bulletin, The South Florida Orchidist, The Orchid Digest, The Orchid Review and the American Orchid Society Bulletin. He has also written a book, that published in 1997, titled "Vandas: Their Botany, History and Culture."

Martin was an assistant professor of English at Wright State University for several years. He was director of horticulture therapy at Grant Center Hospital and was consultant on horticulture therapy at the Hospital Corporation of America. Martin has lived most of his life in the Miami, Florida area but has traveled extensively in the Mediterranean and has observed orchids throughout most of Central and South America, The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the Cayman Islands, Malaya, Thailand, Australia, as well as Mexico and Florida.

CULTURE SESSION: Fall Maintenance for Cymbidiums Heather Drobus of Top Hat Orchids

Heather will share her expertise on Cymbidiums. She will guide us through special fall cultural needs, preparing them for winter, and spectacular blooming. Don't miss this timely and informative session.

Do you have something to Share?

Now is the time for hesitant lecturers to come forward to take their first step in returning some of that expertise that they have gathered over the years. In sharing expertise, you end up with more than you started. So be brave, you're among friends, call Lois to reserve your culture session date.

Lois Miller *Vice President* 510-793-4243
slippergal@msn.com

August 2004

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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 Dr. Martin Motes
-

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

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from "Winslow" to "Zygler" and "Aable" to "Byrzinski" are responsible for bringing refreshments to the August 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

September 18-19

Orchid Forum of Sacramento Show, Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Richard Weymouth, 10354 Reigl Rd., Wilton, CA 95693; (916) 687-8805

September 20

César Fernández speaks at OSC meeting, New species reported in Venezuela

September 25-26

D & D Flowers will have their Fall Open House from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (see ad page 7)

October 2-3

'OrchidFest' The San Francisco Orchid Society presents this second annual event featuring local, national, and international orchid nurseries, lectures, and demonstrations. Hall of Flowers, County Fair Building, Ninth Ave and Lincoln Way; 665-2468, www.orchidsanfrancisco.org. 10am-5pm, \$2

October 16-17

Diablo View Orchid Society Show, Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA. Contact: Jill Chambers, 332 Harper Lane, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-0243 (see ad page 3)

October 18

Carol Seigel speaks at OSC meeting, Sex Life of Orchids.

November 13-14

Orchid Society of California fall show "The Magic of Orchids" Our banquet speaker is Glen Decker, the Phragmepedium guy.

Need more? See the AOS Calendar online at:

<http://orchidweb.org/events.html>

OSC Fall Show Theme Ballot Results

Dinner with Orchids	4
Lord of the Orchids	2
Naked with Orchids	1
Orchids au Naturel	5
Orchids under Oaks	0
The Future is Orchids	3
<u>The Magic of Orchids</u>	<u>21</u>
Hot Tub & Orchids	1

Art for November Show Flyer Needed

The Magic of Orchids

We have selected a show Theme for this year's November show, to be held November 13 & 14, 2004. It is The Magic of Orchids. Now we need some art work to place on our flyer to advertise our show. If you'd like to try your hand at designing a flyer, or have a great idea, please submit them to Lois Miller. She can be contacted at slippergal@msn.com, or at work: 650-564-5645, or home 510-793-4243. Please also feel free to contact Lois if you'd like to be on the November Show Committee.

DVOS 2nd annual Fall Show and Sale

The Diablo View Orchid Society is having its 2nd annual Fall Show and Sale on Saturday, October 16, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 17, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. The event will be at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA. Besides the beautiful array of blooming exotic orchids on display, there will be numerous vendors selling their plants. We will also have raffle plants, a plant doctor to offer advice and on both days, we will have potting and culture demonstrations at 10:00a.m., 12 noon and 2:00 p.m..

Take 680 to Concord. Exit at Willow Pass Road, head west and as you cross through Contra Costa Blvd., the name changes to Taylor Blvd.. Go past the next stop light and Civic Drive will be just a bit further up on the right side. If you've driven up to the second stoplight after Contra Costa Blvd., you've gone too far.

Appeal for volunteers for the Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco

Volunteers needed as Greeters to welcome patrons upon arrival, Interpretive Guides to provide overviews of the Conservatory restoration and highlight plant collections, and Children's Docents to lead 4th grade schoolchildren on scheduled tours.

Training is provided beginning Thursday, August 19, 2004 and will be held each consecutive Thursday morning for six weeks in Golden Gate Park.

Interested volunteers should contact Michele Canning, Volunteer Manager, San Francisco Parks Trust before August 13th at (415) 750-5226 or michele@frp.org.

See also:

<http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org/volunteer/index.htm>

President's Message

Our annual ice cream social last month was a great success, and I would like to thank Board members DeAnn Mosbey (Treasurer), and Mary Lou Smith (Secretary), for their effort and expertise at scooping ice cream into the cups and bowls of all attending members.

The culture session round-robin was appreciated by all and thanks go out to Gerardus Staal, Ray Vickers-Traft, Loretta Rodriguez, and Terry Boomer for hosting, respectively, Pests/Diseases, Windowsill Gardening, Cattleyas, and Paphs/Masdevallias. Also, Musia Staag was prepared to lend a hand in hosting a culture session in case we had time for five sessions, but we will just have to wait to hear her speak at another time.

This month we are thrilled to host Martin Motes, the Vanda man, well-known author and grower, from South Florida. Martin will sell and sign copies of his books on Vandas and hopefully will convince members that this genera's cultural requirements are not

so difficult to provide in our cool Bay Area climate, and we will eventually see more of them on our Show & Tell table.

Finally, I am happy to announce the winner of the November Show theme: Magic of Orchids. Surely this theme will bring out the best in all exhibitors' imaginations and displays! A free raffle ticket to DeAnn Mosbey and Mary Lou Smith, who submitted this entry.

And, remember, this November we will award the new Bea Emory trophy for artistic expression, so start primping your plants and gathering your props for display! Lois Miller, VP and Chair for the November show, will have more details at our meeting and in future newsletters.

Carol Klonowski

AOS Awards

Pacific Central Judging Center July 19, 2004

Epidendrum balface 'Hanging Gardens'
Exhibitor: Hanging Gardens, Dan Newman
CHM 81 (prov)

Paphiopedilum un-named hybrid 'Blanca'
(Paph. Emerald Sea x Paph. Spin Doctor)
Exhibited by Terry & Margaret Boomer
HCC 75

Paphiopedilum Transdoll 'Riverdale'
(Paph. liemianum x Paph. rothschildianum)
Exhibited by Tim Culbertson
HCC 76

Pleurothallis pterophora 'Bishop Hyum-Sam
Shin'
Exhibited by Anna S. Chai
CCE 93

Pacific Central Supplemental Center July 6, 2004

Disa uniflora 'Buff'
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 79

Disa uniflora 'Paleface'
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 77

Paphiopedilum Armeni White 'Polar Bear'
(Paph. armeniacum x Paph. delenatii),
Exhibited by Japheth Ko
AM 82

For more information and pictures please
visit the Pacific Judging web site:

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

August in Your Orchid Garden

For August, we are printing a culture article from our speaker, Martin Motes. Although written for southern Florida hobbyists, most of the principles apply to growers in the Bay area as well.

Although it may not seem so as temperatures climb into the low nineties most afternoons, summer is in retreat: each day a little shorter, each night a little longer. With shorter days the importance of watering as early in the morning as possible comes to the fore. With less hours of sunlight to dry the plants, extra care should be taken in choosing when to water. Back to the basics of the classic saying : If a Vanda looks like it needs water, water it; If a cattleya or oncidium looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow. If a Paph or a phal looks like it needs water- you should have watered it yesterday.

August, (despite our exceptionally rainy season this year) should provide numerous opportunities to dry each orchid to its desired level of dryness. Take the opportunity to dry your orchids "hard" at least once but preferably twice in August. This will give your orchids a leg up on their mortal enemies the fungus before the drizzle of September switches the advantage to the fungus. August is definitely not the month to over-water with the soggiest of months next up. The corollary to this is the concept that when watering in August above all water thoroughly. If watering is necessary be sure that the roots and medium are totally saturated with the application. The drizzling rains of September are so detrimental precisely because they keep the foliage of the plants wet unduly long.

Good air circulation and proper watering are the keys to disease prevention. Remember that your plants will have grown considerably in size by now. They have added extra growths and extra leaves across the summer. August is a good time to evaluate the spacing of our plants. Remember the old Florida saw that one needs a cat to grow good orchids because when properly spaced a cat should be able to navigate the benches between plants without knocking them over. While we can not recommend specific chemicals, one could enquire of the county agent if Banrot, a convenient combination of Thiophanate-methyl and Truban which controls a number of leaf-spotting diseases and soft rots, is still recommended by them for home owner use. A combination of Thiophanate- methyl and mancozeb has also been recommended. This can be found pre-packaged as Duosan. If one can over come the aversion to chemicals and can learn the safe application of them, they are valuable tools to better orchid growing. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure especially before the drizzle of September sets in.

Lengthening nights in August mean cooler nighttime temperatures. Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. Cattleyas and oncidiums have maturing bulbs. Genera that become deciduous in winter like nobile dendrobiums, calanthes and catasetums should be given much less nitrogen in August to prevent them producing an unwanted off season growth and perhaps forgetting to flower. Substitute a 'Bloom Booster' high phosphorous fertilizer for the 20-20-20. We use Miller's Solugrow.8-46-12 because it does not have the horrible blue dye that will mark your blooms or your hands but any soluble fertilizer with a high middle number will do fine. Vandas will respond well to this also, as several of the parental species of our hybrids produce blooms on shortening day lengths and the high phosphorous fertilizer seems to egg them on. As explicated in the last newsletter, modern research indicates that orchids require less phosphorous than previously thought. This concept should lead us to more judicious use of phosphorus. One or two heavy applications in succession, a week or so apart will certainly provide all the phosphorus and all the stimulus our plants require.

Snails can be somewhat of a problem in August too, but left to multiply will be in their full glory when the slow steady rains of September set in. Control them with baits in pellet or liquid form. Remember, these are baits, the pests are drawn to them. Therefore apply lightly, but frequently. Because they wash away in the heavy rains, baits should be reapplied every two weeks. One pellet every two to three feet will do the job, but one application will not.

If you have been waiting to make cuttings of the terete vandas or reed stem epidendrums you can wait no longer. The potting season is drawing absolutely to a close. Pot up those phals; re-set those strap leaf vandas early in August whilst they still have just enough time to re-establish themselves in the September humidity and before the cool weather arrives and their root growth slows or stops. As in all seasons be sure that the plants are firmly set in their containers. There is no "wobble room" this late in the growing season to restart tender roots that have been chafed off a loosely set plant. As the cooler weather approaches try to give plants that have been repotted late more protection from the first cold snaps.

Watering

Proper watering is easily the single most important aspect of orchid growing. Neophyte orchid growers most frequent question is " How often do I water this plant?" In a very significant sense this is exactly the wrong question. A more illuminating query would be "How much does this

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August in Your Orchid Garden

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orchid need to dry out?" Epiphytic orchids are more like cactus than any other type of plant. Like cactus, orchids are locked in an evolutionary struggle with their mortal enemies: fungus. This battle is why orchids took to the trees, rocks and other generally harsh environments that they inhabit in nature. These desert-like environments allow orchids to dry out. Fungus can not survive drying; therefore drought is the epiphytic orchid's best friend. Each orchid species has developed organs for water storage that permit the plants to withstand drying that would be intolerable to fungi. This strategy allows orchids to thrive in situations where few other plants could survive much less prosper.

Knowing the tolerance for drought of various types of orchids is the most essential knowledge that growers can have. Orchids are the largest and most diverse group of flowering plants. Each genus has developed its own techniques of coping with drying and each genus and species must be treated differently in order to maximize success. The focus of the grower's attention should be on the degree of drying that a particular genus requires. The standard advice is always to err on the dry side. This advice is particularly cogent in the torrential rains of a typical South Florida summer. When a break in the rains gives us an opportunity to dry our plants, we must take it. Fortunately, July and August frequently afford us these not to be missed opportunities.

The ubiquitous and affordable *Phalaenopsis*, which is frequently the beginner's first orchid, appears at first glance an exception to the rule of drying. They are in fact the exception that proves the rule. Although compared to African violets as plants who require constant moisture at their roots, *phalaenopsis* require as well the drying of their roots which is provided by the large air spaces in the open but moisture retentive media that are typically used to grow them. When these air spaces in the medium are filled with water for too long the roots can not dry and they rapidly rot. This phenomenon is why *phalaenopsis* in most media perish so quickly when novices attempt to grow them outside in our wet summers. The same fate awaits *phalaenopsis* grown in sphagnum moss under cover if the moss is not changed annually. As the sphagnum breaks down the air spaces provided by the fine hairs of the moss collapse leaving the orchid's roots to rot in a wet mass without sufficient air to permit the roots to dry as they require.

Cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums and other types with heavy bulbs require abundant moisture during the growing season but need to dry out thoroughly between waterings.

In a typical South Florida summer these plants rarely require much additional water. That said; they also should not be deprived of essential water or nutrients during this period of active growth. When these plants have not received a good rain in three or four days, the grower has an excellent opportunity to fertilize them with liquid fertilizer. Always substitute the liquid fertilizer for water. Never follow the bad advice of watering before fertilizing, a receipt for fungal problems particularly here in South Florida. Many successful growers actually tolerate a few weeds in their pots of sympodial orchids as indicator plants. When the broad leaved herbs are wilting, its time to think of watering. Remember that nowhere is it more true than in S. Florida that "When a *Cattleya* looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow!"

Vandas, which relish watering on most days, also need to dry out. The universal rule of *Vanda* watering states that when *Vanda* roots are white, they are dry and should be watered until they turn overall dark green. When they turn white again the process should be repeated in 12 to 24 hours. While this rule holds regardless of relative humidity, temperature, air movement or light intensity the exception is during periods of prolonged heavy rains such as are typical of South Florida summers. Here in the rainy season *vandas* too benefit from an occasional hard drying. Three or four days without water relieves the *vandas* from much of the pressure from fungus which is more or less a constant in our summers. *Vanda* roots that have been dried hard will need to be re-hydrated with several applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. Most frequently nature takes care of this detail for us and then some with the next major thunder storm. Remember also, that during the summer in particular *vandas* are heavy feeders and will appreciate the substitution of liquid fertilizer for water on most occasional breaks in the rain when wetting the plants is required.

Keeping all these cautions in mind will gird up our orchids for the onslaught of September's rain. Get up early to enjoy the last of the night's chill and think about the vegetable and herbs you'll soon be growing. The farmers of South Dade are already preparing their fields. We consider September 1st a good date for the first planting of arugula!

Dr. Motes regrets that he cannot respond to all specific questions and problems; both time constraints and the difficulty of diagnosing at a distance and through a computer make it awkward. He will be conducting again a series of free classes on all aspects of orchid growing across the Fall.

DOROTHY STEVENSON , November 6, 1913 - July 14, 2004

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Dorothy Stevenson, a long time member of the San Francisco Orchid Society, an American Orchid Society Judge and a Past President of the Peninsula Orchid Society, who passed away on July 14 after a short illness. While Dorothy had not been very involved with the Orchid Society of California

recently, she had participated in AOS judging during our meetings and shows in the past. The entire orchid community will miss her contributions and we offer our sincere condolences to her friends, family, and fellow orchidists of the Peninsula Orchid Society, the San Francisco Orchid Society, and the AOS Pacific Central Judging Center.

Greenhouse Tour and New Members Welcome Pot Luck

The theme: a few of the many members who contribute to our show and tell table

When: October 9th, 2004

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Where: The green houses; Marques Miller
Dennis Westler

Mimi Rose

The pot luck: Mimi Rose's house

Who is invited: EVERYONE.....members who have joined in the last 12 months are our guests and don't need to bring a dish.

Addresses and maps available at our September meeting

D & D Flowers Fall Open House

D & D Flowers will have their Fall Open House on September 25 and 26, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be lots of Masdevallia, Cymbidium, Oncidium and Cattleya hybrid and specie divisions at great prices. There will be lots of anthuriums also. Come for the company of friends, fun and food.

Driving from the north or south, take 101 or 280 to 92 west to Half Moon Bay. About a quarter of a mile

before down town Half Moon Bay, you will see a fire wood business, a house, the statuary and Spanish Town, a small arts and craft complex. Turn left at the fire wood business and drive beyond the left side of the house over the bridge and up into the greenhouse complex. D & D Flowers is the first greenhouse to the right.

Interesting Orchid Web sites, the Sequel

A lot of everything about orchids
and more links:

<http://www.theorchidsite.com>

Red's Hardy Orchids, a small nursery
propagating hardy terrestrial orchids
"Once propagated, a rare plant is no longer rare."

<http://www.hardy-orchids.com>

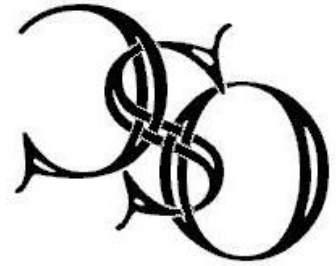
The Wild Orchid Company, more hardy
Orchids for the garden, especially Cypripedium
<http://www.wildorchidcompany.com>

Native Orchids of Pennsylvania
*"The first of June, when the lady's slipper and
the wild pink have come out in sunny places on
the hillsides, then the summer is begun
according to the clock of the seasons."* - Thoreau

<http://www.wild-orchids.com>

Next Meeting: Monday, August 16, 2004
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

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



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

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Dr. Martin Motes**

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www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
