

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, February 21, 2005
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: Paphiopedilums and Phragmepediums Dennis Olivas

The topic for this month's General Meeting is growing the most popular members of the genus *Cypripedium*: *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmepediums*. The Presentation will include culture, questions and answers, and a slide show.

Dennis Olivas was born in Hawaii on the island of Kauai, in the town of Waimea. His first orchid was a *Cattleya bowringiana* which was given to him by a neighbor when they divided the plant growing in a very large galvanized tub. Dennis left Hawaii in 1980, leaving thousands of dendrobiums, Vandas and Cattleyas to his mom to care for. With no intention of growing another orchid, his biggest mistake was purchasing a *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* in 1981, from Rod McLellan Company at Hickey blvd. and El Camino Real. Today, he tries to maintain a three thousand square foot greenhouse in Half Moon Bay and some cymbidiums in Pleasant Hill.

Dennis is a member of 12 California Orchid Societies, an honorary member at one and an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society.

The Raffle table will be provided by Dennis.

Try not to miss this one man show!

New Members:

Please Welcome to the OSC the following New Members that have joined since our November Show:

Dona Eidam
James Hand
Maria Vu
John Artin & Dusty Roads
Chris Martin

Greenhouse Tour in March :

We will be visiting Top Hat orchids at their greenhouse in Richmond. Their specialty is Cymbidiums. We will also go to Paula Shiu's greenhouse where she grows orchids of many genera. The tour will take place on Sunday, March 27th. We will leave the garden center at 12.30 p.m. Directions will be in next months newsletter. Questions? Suggestions?

e-mail me rose4mimi@cs.com
or call me 510 569-8683

See you soon,
Mimi Rose

February 2005

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Meeting Details

- Plant sales will open at 6:30 PM.
- **Meeting starts at 7:15 PM.**
- Raffle table will be provided by Dennis Olivas

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

February – John Artim & Juan Alejo
March – Bonnie Kraus & Russ Uabnado

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from "Oster" to "Sunbeam" are responsible for bringing refreshments to the February 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

February 19-22

The San Francisco Orchid Society's Pacific Orchid Exposition at the Festival Pavilion in Fort Mason Center will be the 3rd weekend in February. The Benefit Preview Gala Night will be Thurs., Feb. 17th and the Show will be Fri. Sat. and Sun., Feb. 18th -- 20th, 2005. Contact: Dennis Westler, 1680 Gouldin Rd., Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 339-8626

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

March 4-6

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show, Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA. Contact: Paul Matsushita, PO Box 555, Calistoga, CA 94515; (707) 942-4036;

ptmatsushita@dslextreme.com

March 4-6

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds Exhibit Building, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA. Contact: Margaret Cavaletto, 1096 N. Patterson Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93111; (805)967-6331; www.sborchidshow.com.

March 11-13

Malahini Orchid Society Show, Vallco Fashion Park, 10123 N. Wolfe Rd., Cupertino, CA. Contact: Barry Zimmerman, 685 Stirling Dr., San Jose, CA 95124; (650) 262-5782.

March 26-27

Napa Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale, Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa, CA. Contact: Fredia Lloyd, (707) 224-6233

April 2-3

Golden Gate Cymbidium Society Show, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA. Contact: Loretta Rodriguez, (510) 538-8632; loretta193@aol.com.

April 9-10

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show, The Great Mall, 447 Great Mall Drive, Milpitas, CA. Contact: Conrad Kumata, 19987 Knollwood Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070; (408) 996-8335.

Need more? See the AOS Calendar online at:

<http://aos.org/aos/uploadedfiles/docs/showschedule.pdf>

Membership Renewals are due.
Form is on inside of back page.
Mail or bring to meeting.

February in Your Orchid Garden

Cold Temperature Tolerance of Different Orchids

One major obstacle for neophyte growers is understanding the diversity of cultural requirements of various genera of orchids. Orchids are such a vast group of plants which have succeeded in nearly every conceivable habitat on earth, that knowledge of a specific genera's cultural requirements rather than a general knowledge of what "orchids" like is necessary to successfully cultivate the various types. Most cultivated orchids come from tropical regions but differences in elevation and other geographic features of their native habits can mean dramatic differences in the response of orchids to various external conditions. Most emphatically these differences can be seen in different genera's toleration of cold. While some orchids are native to regions where frost is more the norm than the exception, others are hyper-tropical plants for whom 50 F is far too cool. Knowing which is which is essential in a mixed collection of orchids. A great irony for beginners is to discover that their extra nurturing efforts to protect certain orchids has in fact done more harm than good.

Dendrobiums are among the most confusing for new orchid growers. This huge genus, well over a thousand species divided into 15 sections, ranges over nearly a quarter of the planet. Found from western Indian all the way to Micronesia, dendrobiums inhabit an incredible variety of ecological niches. Ironically, the two sections most common in horticulture are diametrically opposite in cold tolerance. Section *Dendrobium*, the soft bulb or "nobile types" whether in their pendulous forms like *D. anosum* and *aphyllum* or in the upright types like *D. nobile* and its hybrids, positively relish the cold. Temperatures right down to frost are the best culture to produce the most prolific blooming of these plants. Without cold and drought stress in winter these plants will retain their leaves and produce an abundance of negative growths but few if any flowers. Stressed by cold and dried out properly these plants lose all their leaves and in spring the bare bulbs are covered in flowers. *Au contraire* for the "hard cane" dendrobiums of sections *Spatulata* and *Phalaenanthe*. Loss of leaf on *D. phalaenopsis* types is usually indicative that they have suffered from too much cold. Temperatures below 60F can produce this undesirable effect.

D. phalaenopsis and evergreen types should receive the maximum cold protection. Other sections of the genus have slightly different tolerances. Section *Callista*, *D. farmerii*, *D. lindleyii* (*aggregatum*) and their relatives can take temperatures nearly as low as the *nobile* types and will bloom all the better for exposure to temperatures in the 30's. Section *Formosae*, *D. formosum*, *D. infundibulum* and the new hybrids prefer slightly warmer conditions but are quite happy with temperatures in the 40's. Other sections of *Dendrobium* in cultivation such as *Pedilonium*, *Latouri*, and the Australian hybrids of section *Den-*

drocorne have slightly different requirements and those growing these more "exotic" will succeed best in researching them. Try B. Lavarack et al. *Dendrobium and its Relatives*, Timber Press.

After the cold sensitive "hard cane" dendrobiums, *Phalaenopsis* are the most tender of commonly grown orchids. *Phalaenopsis* will be strongly induced to bloom by temperatures in the mid 50's. A few exposures to temperatures below 60 will produce the desired spikes and thereafter the plants will be happiest if they are kept above 60. One or two nights down to 50 or slightly below will do little harm but are to be avoided in the best kept collection.

Vandas come next on the scale of sensitivity. Like phals they are stimulated to bloom with sharp drops of temperature unto the 50s, especially when the temperature can be induced to climb into the 80's by day. Vandas will tolerate brief excursions into the upper 40's but are best kept above 50 degrees. Temperatures below 50 for very long or very often will produce the tinkling sound of falling *Vanda* leaves, turning the plants into palm trees.

Oncidiums of the "mule ear" type with thick fleshy leaves (*O. luridum*, *lanceanum* etc.) Have warmth requirements similar to vandas. The thinner leaved *Oncidineae* will usually take temperatures into the 40's with aplomb. Many of the hybrids in this group have been bred to *Miltoniopsis* and to *Odontoglossum* to increase their cold tolerance. A caution with this group is the ability of wind to strip heat rapidly from their thin leaves. The cold tolerance of these will be much greater in still air.

With the exception of some species of Amazonian origin like *Cattleya violacea*, *C. luteola* and a few others, most *Cattleyas* can take quite cool temperatures. Experienced growers have few concerns for them even in temperatures down to the upper 30's. They must, however be protected from both frost and freeze. Be extra cautious on those clear, still nights when the temperature drops to the 30's.

In addition to the cold loving *nobile* dendrobiums, certain other genera from the high Himalayas such as deciduous *Calanthe* and *Cymbidium* species and hybrids actual require quite cold temperatures to stimulate them to their best bloom. Even "warm growing, temperature tolerant" hybrid *cymbidiums* flower best when chilled repeatedly into the low 30's.

All orchids tolerate cold best when they have proper nutrition. Avoid too much nitrogen which might stimulate too soft of growth and increase the dosage and frequency of application of both magnesium and potassium in colder weather.

AOS Awards

Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland, January 18, 2005

Dendrochilum quadrilobum 'Stony Point'
Exhibited by: Walter M. Shinn
CBR (prov)

Encyclia (Euchile) citrina 'Summer Solstice'
Exhibited by: Ramon delos Santos
HCC 75

Paphiopedilum Gloria Naugle 'Summer Solstice'
(Paph. rothschildianum x Paph. micranthum)
Exhibited by: Ramon delos Santos
HCC 75

Pacific Central Supplemental Center San Francisco, January 4, 2005

Eriopsis biloba 'Peruvian Sun'
Exhibited by: Walter M. Shinn
AM 80

February 1, 2005

Vuylstekeara Jerry Lawless 'Golden Gate'
(Vuyl. Mem. Mary Kavanaugh x Oda. Jubilee Volunteer)
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids
AM 84

Peninsula Orchid Society Show January 7, 2005

Cymbidium Royale Flare '#5'
(Cym. Trigo Royale x Cym. Fanfare),
Exhibited by: Weegie Caughlan
HCC 77

Cymbidium Yai 'Monica'
(Cym. Christmas Morn x Cym. Urara),
Exhibited by: Ken and Amy Jacobsen
AM 80

Masdevallia lehmanii 'Jung Ja Lim'
Exhibited by: Anna S. Chai
CCM 84

Maxillaria triloris 'Mem. Christian Tonsberg'
Exhibited by: Orchids and Gardens
HCC 75

Odontoglossum Jim Mintsiveris 'Black Beauty'
(Odm. Nicky Strauss x Odm. Durham Pursuit)
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 75

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

Contact Us

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Pam Newton *Librarian* 510-527-6785

President's Message

This month starts off on a sad note as I am announcing the sudden death of Margie Thomas, a longtime member, last January 26, 2005. Although born in Boston, Margie lived in the Bay Area for a long time and was an accountant at Truit & White Lumber in Berkeley for many years. Margie handled publicity for our Mother's Day shows in the 1990's and most recently won the first annual Bea Emory Memorial Trophy for best artistic expression in our November show just a few months ago. At that time Margie seemed as full of life as ever, making the news of her sudden demise that much more shocking. As details become available, I will announce them at our February meeting.

By the time you read this we will probably have our OSC exhibit set up at the San Francisco Pacific Orchid Exposition, and hopefully many of you have stopped by with plants or to look at our latest creation. Also, here's hoping that many of you also volunteered for this wonderful event, which is one of the country's best orchid shows.

This is a reminder that all plants from the exhibit that are not picked up at break-down time on Sunday, February 20, 6 PM, will be brought to the OSC meeting the following day, February 21, for the Show & Tell table.

Another reminder for you cymbidium growers: the Bowen trophy will be awarded at the March meeting. Both the judges and the general membership in attendance will evaluate the entries and vote for the one that's the best!

And, the annual Mother's Day sale to benefit the society is in its initial planning stages. I am pleased to announce that Paula Shiu, Past President and current Chair for the Show & Tell table, has stepped up to volunteer as Show Chair this year. As usual, we will be signing up volunteers for May 6, 7, and 8, so clear your calendars on that weekend.

Carol Klonowski

Get Ready For POE 2005, Orchid Reflections, Feb. 17-20, 2005

The Pacific Orchid Exposition is almost here, and the SFOS still needs your help. This is our chance to show our love for Orchids and our lovely Orchids themselves to the world. A massive undertaking, it requires the volunteer help of hundreds of people. It is also our society's major fund-raiser for the year, providing for our speakers, plant opportunity tables, general operating costs, and enabling us to continue with our growing philanthropic endeavors.

Below is the contact information for our committee chairs for this year's show. They all need as much help as they can get to do their jobs well, and it behooves us all to put some time in on the show. Every member benefits from a successful show, and we would love to see you all out there doing your part. Volunteering gets you in free, and if you work three or more hours you get lunch. **It's a great way for new people to get to know others in the society**, and doing things like security, plant hotel, docent tours or orchid doctor are great ways to interact with the general public.

If you want to know what a specific committee does, by all means e-mail or call either the appropriate committee chair, Dennis or Jean. We will be more than happy to talk to you and help you figure out which committee (or committees) is best for you. Your help is necessary, and we hope to see all of you out there for at least a couple of hours through the show.

Thank you,
Dennis Westler
Show Chair

Jean Lee
President, SFOS

Committee Chairs for 2005 POE

AOS Judging: Todd Kennedy

Awards and Trophies/Ribbon Judging:

JeanLee jeanleeorchids@cs.com, (415)665-6079),

Walter Shinn Walter.shinn@sri.com, (650)591-4904

Books: Maria Chow maria218@pacbell.net, (510)317-2032

CSA Judging: Paul Chim pchim@sfpl.org, (510)635-3260

Hospitality Coordinator:

Caryle Wyatt cwyatt6991@aol.com, (415)821-3699

Tom Ballinger drysidegarden@sbcglobal.net, (415) 824-1547

Membership: Joyce MacRea jmacrea@yahoo.com

Orchid Doctor/Docent Tours: Dennis Westler (see Show Chair)

Plant Division: Bill Theiss jokesift@syix.com, (530)695-3159

Gay Matthes Gay@Matthes.com, (415)346-9903

Plant Entry: Jean Lee (see above)

Plant Hotel: Keith Smith (To volunteer, call Noble Emery at (707)255-1529)

Plant Sales: Carol Zoltowski czoltowski@aol.com, (415)657-3222

Poster/Shirts: Alicia Stiles orchidpleuro@earthlink.net

Preview Night: Janet and David Browne usimaging@sbcglobal.net, (415)221-0337

Production: Ken Giebel, Seth Giebel

Promotion: Frances Larose, Kati Schmidt, Donna Lyon, Scott Lechner

Property Manager: Ellen Edelson

SFOS Display: Mark Souza marksouza@gmail.com, (510)812-7662

Security: Dana Murphy danacmurphy@hotmail.com, (510)748-9620

Bob Christensen rcc572@aol.com, (415)3376571

Sound: Paul Bourbin paulbourbin@hotmail.com, (415)648-8489

Sponsorship: Frances Larose, Ken Giebel

Ticket Sales: Mark Sullivan PainterArt@comcast.net (415)661-7631

Treasurer: Alan MacRea alan@macrea.com,

Joyce MacRea jmacrea@yahoo.com,

Maria Cresci maria@acpwa.org

Vendor Evaluation: Dennis Westler (see Show Chair)

Volunteer Coordinator:

Maureen Clarke mbc527@aol.com (415)333-4033

Paula Shiu orchidchef@earthlink.net, (510) 237-0471

George Su aznparkranger2003@juno.com, (510)727-1262

Show Chair: Dennis Westler denniswestler@aol.com, (510)339-8626

PHALAEOPSIS ORCHID CULTURE IN THE HOME

Phalaenopsis orchids are the easiest of the common orchids to grow in the home, giving an unusually impressive display of flowers on a relatively small, attractive plant. The following hints should help you to grow them well under your own conditions.

Temperature: Night temperature should be at least 60 deg. F, with 63 to 65 deg. F even better. Daytime temperatures are not as critical, but temperatures above 90 deg. F may stress the plants unless the humidity is well over 50%.

Humidity: Phalaenopsis plants like relatively high humidity (70% is about ideal) but large plants seem to adapt well to most homes, which are usually much drier. They do appreciate any increase in humidity you can arrange but most of the common techniques, such as growing on a shallow container of pebbles partly covered with water, do not help much. Growing near other green plants which give off water vapor can be useful. Remember that the air from a heating or air conditioning duct is extremely dry, so protect your plants from direct contact with this air. Severely restricting the amount of air movement across your plants will help to preserve the natural humidity given off by the plants. Do not use fans to increase air movement.

Light: The most critical requirement, and one which may limit flowering. Light must be indirect or filtered strongly (direct sunlight may burn the leaves). It is impossible to have too much indirect light, so placing the plant near large area windows facing south, east or west is the best arrangement. In quantitative terms, about 300 to 500 foot-candles of light are required to bloom most phalaenopsis. Plants grown about one foot below a standard fluorescent light will grow and bloom well on 16 hour days. A dark period seems to be required each night.

Watering and Fertilizing: Phalaenopsis roots require air and must not be wet continuously or bacterial rot will develop. Plants must be watered thoroughly by flooding or dipping and then allowed to dry significantly before watering again. Dipping has the advantage that you can dip in the dilute fertilizer solution and minimize waste. The frequency watering will depend on the type of potting medium, its condition, type of pot, humidity and other factors. For most nearly mature or mature plants in fir bark, watering will be required about once a week. As the bark begins to break down it holds water longer and the time between watering may have to be lengthened a little, or, better yet, the plant should be repotted (see below). A complete 30-10-10 fertilizer used at a dilution of about one quarter teaspoon per gallon of water with each watering is the choice of the best growers. The plants should be thoroughly flushed with plain water about once a month to prevent salt buildup. Misting leaves is beneficial in hot, dry locations but do not mist again until completely dry and never late in the afternoon or evening. Light misting of any aerial roots as often as once or twice a day can help greatly to keep these roots healthy and the plant in good condition.

Potting: Phalaenopsis are more tolerant of repotting than most orchids, and seem to be stimulated into active root growth by the new, drier bark. Repotting your phalaenopsis (every two to three years) before the bark in the root zone breaks down and becomes too wet will assure continued good health. Failure to repot is likely to result in severe damage or death for the plant. When repotting, remove the plant carefully from the pot, trying to damage as few roots as possible (plastic pots are ideal since the roots do not attach to the smooth plastic surface). Carefully remove all the old bark and cut off all dead roots, mainly at the bottom of the plant stem. Any dead or damaged parts of the upper live roots can be trimmed back to live tissue. Choose a pot such that the roots will fit by coiling into the smallest reasonably sized pot, leaving some space between roots for bark particles. Unusually long roots can be shortened, rather than be crowded into the pot. Unless it would leave the plant with too few leaves, any leaf that is below a healthy root can be removed at this time. The plant is now held centered upright in the pot with the lowest leaf slightly below the rim of the pot and bark of the appropriate size is placed in the pot, tapped into place between the roots (the final level being just below the lowest leaf), and firmly pressed to eliminate any voids. All bark used should be soaked in water for several hours and dried in air until the surface is no longer wet to the touch. It must then be used within a few days or it must be soaked again. For long term storage, allow to dry completely and store in a container that allows good air penetration. Freshly repotted plants usually require watering a little more frequently (perhaps every 3 to 5 days) for the first month or two, then resume weekly watering. Note that for well established plants too frequent watering can be harmful and if continued long enough, even fatal, while under watering rarely does more than set the plant back, recovery being almost always assured by increased watering.

Pests: Insects, and bacterial or fungal infections are the main threats; the latter two are rarely found in home culture as the low humidity discourages these organisms. Avoid water standing on the leaves or in the crown for any length of time (especially at night) and you should have few problems. Scale and woolly aphids (mealy bugs) are the common insect pests if any, but hand removal may control them on a few plants. Commercial insecticides may be used (with appropriate caution) if needed. Three or four treatments spaced about one week apart will usually assure success. Be sure to follow label instructions for ornamental plants.

Note about the authors: Helen & Maynard Michel are the proprietors of the prestigious Phalaenopsis House, Orchids Orinda, which is part of the Orchid Ranch complex in Livermore, California. They are both long standing, highly esteemed members of the Orchid Society of California and are accredited A.O.S. judges of the Pacific Central Judging Center, with Helen Michel as a chair person. A customer purchasing a plant from their fine Phalaenopsis house generally receives comprehensive growing instructions from the Michels. They have a genuine concern that the purchaser is able to successfully grow their new orchid.

The Orchid Society of California

Membership Renewal Form

To renew your membership in the Orchid Society of California, fill in the information below (please print) and make your check for **\$20.00** payable to **OSC**. Mail this form and your membership fee to:

Lois Miller
OSC Membership
3807 Oxford Common
Fremont, CA 94536

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Orchid Related Business (to be listed in Roster):

Name(s): _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ 2nd Phone or Fax (please specify): (_____) _____

I have been a member of The Orchid Society of California since (year): _____

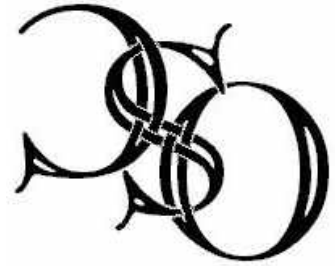
I have been growing orchids since (year): _____

Profession/special skills: _____

My orchid interests /types of orchids I grow include:

Next Meeting: Monday, February 21, 2005
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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www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
