

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, January 19, 2004
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: *Masdevallias*: Species and New Directions in Hybridizing Tom Perlite, Golden Gate Orchids

Tom Perlite is the proprietor of Golden Gate Orchids, which specializes in cool to intermediate growing orchids which grow particularly well in the Bay Area. These orchids include *Masdevallias* and *Odontocidium*s. He also grows select, cool to intermediate growing *Dendrobium* species.

Tom will speak on *Masdevallias*, including species and notable hybrids. He will also provide insight into directions in hybridizing and cultural tips. Tom has been growing *Masdevallias* since the early 1980's.

Tom is an AOS Judge, has a degree in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley, and is another of the many Bay Area orchid growers that came up through the ranks at Rod McLellan & Co. at a time when Frank Fordyce managed the orchid department.

Tom will also provide the plant opportunity table.

PRE-PROGRAM SESSION: growth media: coir: fact, fiction and fabulous orchids

Paula Shiu

Paula will give a culture session on potting and growing orchids in coir. Coir is ground up coconut husk fiber. Although coir is a superior growth medium, special care must be taken when using it. Paula Shiu, who has grown extensively using coir, will outline the benefits and potential problems when using this growth media.

Membership renewals for 2004 are due

In case you missed the hints that Carol made during the December meeting, annual membership renewals are due. Please fill out the application on page 5 so we can keep our membership roster current. This will be critical in providing a complete and accurate printed copy in the next couple of months.

January 2004

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Meeting Details

- Plant sales will open at 6:30 PM
- Pre-Program Culture Session starts at 7:00
- Meeting starts at 7:30 PM
- The raffle table will be provided by Tom Perlite

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 "Aarnold" to "Dillard" are responsible for bringing refreshments to the January 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.

January in your Orchid Garden

January, like December, is cold and wet, and although wet can be good, and cold can be bad, it's the combination of managing these two weather elements that determines the culture of our orchids this month. Fertilizing is normally not an issue as most plants are not in active growth at this time.

We need to exercise careful watering in January. By keeping our plants as dry as possible and spacing out the watering, we avoid the too-wet conditions that bring other problems into our plants (root rot, fungal infections, etc). In January water early and water sparingly. Cool, wet weather means snails and slugs are more active, so keep a sharp eye out for them, especially the small slugs that always hide in the folds of emerging leaves or in the crevices of phalaenopsis leaves. Keep your growing area clean of plant debris and hiding places.

Some orchids that might especially appreciate a 'drying out' period are Nobile Dendrobiums, catasiums and cynoches, not to mention the ones that like to dry out between waterings, such as cattleyas, laelias and dendrobiums. Space the watering of these latter plants to accommodate the slower evaporation occurring in the winter.

As far as temperature is concerned, protection from low and freezing temperatures is necessary. If it is not practical to bring all the Phalaenopsis, vandas dendrobiums and other warm growers into the house or garage, think of using heaters or something else to help protect them. Shade cloth or even patio screen

can prevent the overnight frost on outdoor plants, especially the tender flower spikes of cymbidiums. Some so-called warm growers have a parentage that makes them more cold-tolerant than normal, and vice-versa. Vanda Ceorulea takes low temperatures and some masdevallias actually like it warmer than the cooler winters in the Bay Area. Check your plant labels and investigate their needs!

There is also the theory of well-watered plants having more mass than shriveled plants, and therefore stand up to lower temperatures better by nature of their thermal mass. Conversely, don't water overhead on any plant that might be subject to frost, or you will hasten the damage if one occurs. There are products that prevent moisture buildup around plants during cold temperatures, such as Liquid Cloud.

Cymbidium spikes should also be staked as they emerge or continue to bud this month. Remember to be gentle, especially during cold spells, as the spikes can be quite brittle. Although not all cymbidiums are in spike at this time, the cool weather lovers should be in spike or about to do so. Warmer growers such as will flower later in the year.

With phalaenopsis, this is the cool time of year when spiking can initiate with the temperature drop from daytime to nighttime temperatures. Stake these spikes early on, and try not to overwater or the buds will yellow and drop.

AOS Awards - Pacific Central Judging Center - December 15, 2003

Slc. Circle of Life 'Hot Spot'
Lc. Culminant x Soph. coccinea
Award: HCC 77
Exhibitor: Rob Terry

Oda. un-named hybrid 'Tamara'
Oda. Queen of Hearts x Oda. Petit Port
Award: HCC 75
Exhibitor: Dennis Olivas

Paph. Paul Parks 'JG1'
Paph. sanderianum x Paph. Adductum
Award: HCC78
Exhibitor: Jerry and Jill Rodder

For more information please visit the Pacific Judging web site:

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

Calendar

February 5-8 Fascination of Orchids, South Coast Plaza, Crate & Barrel Wing, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: Roberta Fox, 2153 San Michel Dr. E #C, Costa Mesa, CA 92627; roberta@orchidcentral.net; www.foshow.com.

February 7-8 Santa Cruz Orchid Society Annual Show, Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA. Contact: Cheryl Wagner, 91 Mountain View Rd., Santa Cruz, CA 95065; (831) 457-8393.

February 19-22 San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exposition Annual Show, Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Dennis Westler, 1680 Gouldin Rd., Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 339-8626 www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.

March 5-7 Sonoma County Orchid Society Show, Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA. Contact: Alison Bies, 6480 Eagle Ridge Rd., Penngrove, CA 94951; (707) 795-9775; bies@juno.com.

March 12-14 Malihini Orchid Society Show, Vallco Fashion Park, 10123 N. Wolfe Rd., Cupertino, CA. Contact: Barry Zimmerman, 685 Stirling Dr., Milpitas, CA 95035; (408) 262-5782.

March 19 - 21 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA. Contact: Margaret Cavaletto, 1096 N. Patterson Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93111; (805) 967-6331; sborchid@west.net; www.sborchidshow.com

President's Message

Happy New Year! Along with wishes for a safe and prosperous year, I also hope 2004 brings everyone health, happiness, and many spikes of flowers on all their plants.

This year will start off with another member survey that will be part of the February newsletter, so prepare to sound off on anything you like; just answer a question or two while you're at it.

With the new year come new faces on the Board of Directors and other positions. Please take a moment to review the names listed in this newsletter to acquaint yourselves with the new Board, and other staff.

The list of goals for 2003 were attaining 501c3 status as a charitable non-profit, re-writing the by-laws, putting up an OSC exhibit in the San Francisco show, reinstating greenhouse tours, adding more content to our newsletter and website, and repeating the previous year's successes with the Mother's Day and November shows. Well, we accomplished most of this, but the bylaws and 501c3 status projects are still in process and deserve a bit more explanation than space here allows. So, we will publish an article in a future newsletter to describe what is happening.

We also hope to re-coup our cost for loud speakers that went missing from the Garden Center last summer. So far the City of Oakland has not responded to our request for replacements or reimbursement.

Several volunteer positions are still open: donations chair, website guru, book selling maven, PA system engineer, and refreshments person. Qualifications for all these positions are surprisingly the same: enthusiasm and willing to commit a bit of time and effort each month. See any Board member if you are willing to donate yourself to one of the positions!

This year we will have several changes to the meetings. First, the key to starting on time is to setup and begin the culture session on time, so everyone, please, take a chair or two with you just prior to 7 o'clock, and listen for the announcement that the session is about to begin. Secondly, I promise to keep my announcements and remarks as concise as possible, although I make no such promise for the many other people who make their way up to the mike for their own announcements. And, Paula Shiu is the Show&Tell chair, with authority to speed up the process to allow our speaker to start on time.

The refreshments break that has been taken between the Show&Tell table and the speaker will now revert back to the old way: the break will be AFTER the speaker and before the raffle table action at the end of the meeting.

Carol Klonowski



The Orchid Society of California

www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com

Oakland, California

The Orchid Society of California is dedicated to the culture, protection and appreciation of orchids all over the world. Founded in 1937, it is the oldest orchid society in the West. Annual dues are \$20 per household. Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Lake Merritt Park in Oakland.

6:30 – 7:00 PM Members' plants are submitted for judging
by American Orchid Society judges

6:30 – 7:00 PM Plant sales (members only)

7:00 – 7:30 PM Culture/skill session

7:30 – 9:30 PM General meeting, Speaker presentation, plant raffle

To join the Orchid Society of California, fill in the information below (please print) and make your check payable to OSC. Mail your application to:

OSC Membership
360 Grand Avenue, #129
Oakland CA 94610

Renewal _____ New _____ Change of Address _____

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

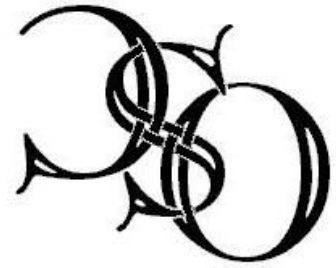
Orchid Related Business: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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



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⇒ **Coir: fact, fiction and fabulous orchids, Paula Shiu**

⇒ **Membership Renewals due**

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