

# Orchid Society of California

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

## **PROGRAM TOPIC: Culture Session Round-Robin** **Lead by Highly Qualified OSC Orchidist**

We will be having a series of culture sessions on a variety of topics given by experienced OSC orchidists.

Try not to miss these interesting presentations!

## **CULTURE SESSION: Ice Cream Social!** **Served by OSC Board of Directors**

## **President's Message**

Join us on Monday, July 19, for our annual Ice Cream Social. This year, instead of a plant auction, we will be having a round-robin of culture sessions immediately following the Show and Tell table portion of the meeting.

The schedule, therefore, is as follows:

6:30 Plant Sales

7:00 Ice Cream Social

7:30 Meeting starts; Announcements

7:45 Culture Sessions; 20 minutes each repeated three times

9:15 Raffle table provided by OSC

9:30 Meeting Adjourned.

There will be no refreshments due to the serving of ice cream and beverages.

Carol Klonowski

July 2004

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### Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Bay Area AOS Awards	2
Contact Us	2
July in your Orchid Garden	3

# Calendar

## August 15

Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club Show. Contact: Carol Zakahi, (808) 329-5405, zcandzs@aol.com

## August 16

Martin R. Motes, author of "Vandas: Their Botany, History, and Culture" speaks to OSC

## 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

# AOS Awards

## Pacific Central Supplemental Center, S.F., June 1, 2004

Cattleya intermedia var. orlata 'Happy Valley'  
Exhibited by Fred Shull  
HCC 79

Masdevallia unregistered hybrid 'Burnt Orange'  
(Masd. Heathii x Masd. Dean Haas),  
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids  
HCC 75

Masdevallia unregistered hybrid 'Violet Glow'  
(Masd. Magdalena x Masd. Marguerite), Exhibited  
by: Golden Gate Orchids  
HCC 78

Masdevallia Redshine 'Embers'  
(Masd. Falcon Sunrise x Masd. Marguerite), Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids  
AM 87

## Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland, June 21, 2004

Paphiopedilum wardii var album 'X'  
Exhibited by: Walter M. Shinn  
HCC

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

## July in Your Orchid Garden

Frequently, neophyte growers ask "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is "That's wonderful." Experienced growers use a break in their watering cycle to dry their plants "hard". Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchids natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus can not. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully they will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of October sets in, allowing our plants many months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the rainy conditions which give the advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. After a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough rehydration. The grower should water until both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. More typically, orchidists should use these opportunities to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media.

In July always think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly application of balanced fertilizer (20-

20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gallon will supply the nutrients that our plants, which are in lush growth, require. Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off", i.e. when the solution starts to fall off the plants. Repeat the application when the plants stop dripping. Don't give fungus the upper hand by wetting the plants foliage more often or longer than necessary.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas but for the rest of us this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in before the first chill of October tickles their root tips. Unless you can protect them from cold, Vanda top cuttings and keikies should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings, remember the "3 root rule". Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

## Orchids in situ

Dear Orchid Society Member,

Plant Adventures is a horticultural travel company that organizes trips to exotic destination to explore different kinds of flora including orchids, orchids and more orchids! We have been organizing trips to Central America for several years and we can customize a trip for your orchid society at a very reasonable price or you may want to join us for one of our famous Plant Adventures trips.

This past March, Plant Adventures organized a very successful orchid tour of Costa Rica for members from the Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach orchid societies.

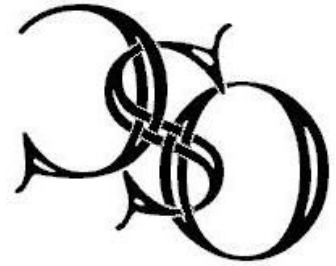
Our next scheduled trip is to Guatemala and Belize in August. We have a few openings available and would love for you to go on this trip to two beautiful countries.

Check out website - [www.PlantAdventures.com](http://www.PlantAdventures.com) for more information about our trips and there are many beautiful photos from previous trips. References are available upon request and travel insurance is always available for our trips.

Thanks from Plant Adventures!

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



Orchid Society of California  
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## **In this issue:**

⇒ **Culture Session Round-Robin**

⇒ **Ice Cream Social!**

⇒ **Special Raffle Table**

⇒ **Martin Motes speaks in August, see Calendar**

**[www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com](http://www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com)**

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