

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, June 20, 2005
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: Pleurothallids: Mountain Dwellers of the New World Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens

This large and diverse group of orchids includes familiar plants such as the masdevallias often displayed on our POS show-and-tell table, along with a multitude of equally fascinating, lesser-known genera and species. The subtribe encompasses cool to intermediate and even warm growers, large plants to tiny miniatures, and flowers ranging from magnificent to grotesque. With over 4,000 species already described and new ones being discovered every year, the pleurothallids truly offer something to interest every orchid grower. The talk will provide an overview of the Pleurothallidinae, with general habitat notes, cultural hints, and a closer look at some selected species.

I've been growing orchids since 1982. The first plant I grew to flowering was a *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* hybrid, bought as a tiny seedling in the Honolulu airport. It thrived in a west-facing bay window, and when it bloomed a year or two later, I was hooked! I began to acquire more orchid plants, mostly seedlings or out-of-bloom divisions, and I read all the orchid books I could find (not many, in the SF public library system).

Although my first plant was a hybrid, my interest soon turned toward species. I joined the American Orchid Society and San Francisco Orchid Society in 1987, and began to acquire new plants at a much faster rate. I served as vice president of the SFOS in 1994, and president from 1995 to 96. I am still a member of the AOS and SFOS, and now also the Orchid Digest Corporation, Orchid Society of California, Peninsula Orchid Society, Carmel Orchid Society, and the Pleurothallid Alliance.

In '96, I moved my collection, which numbered about 350 plants by then, from my one-bedroom apartment to a small commercial greenhouse in San Francisco. My friend and orchid mentor Walter Teague also brought in his amazing, much larger collection of species acquired around the world over many years. Walter had many rare and unusual pleurothallids, and working with him and his plants provided most of my early education about that group. I started my nursery, Hanging Gardens, at that time, and purchased Walter's collection a few years later (he retains visiting rights). I have been growing orchids full-time since 2000, and moved to a larger greenhouse (3,600 square feet) in Pacifica at the end of 2002. There was a lot of empty space at first, but it's filling up quickly...

On a business trip to Greece in spring 1992, I had the opportunity to see a number of the native terrestrial species in bloom there. My first real orchid trip was an expedition to Costa Rica and Belize led by Mort Block in October that same year. In '94, I went on another of Mort's trips, this time to Ecuador. I later visited orchid habitats near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and Machu Picchu in Peru, and have returned twice to Ecuador with Walter and other friends. Despite occasional inconvenience and discomfort, travels in orchid habitats have been among the most memorable times of my life, and I recommend orchid travel to anyone who wants to get the feel of ideal growing conditions.

June 2005

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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: Dan Newman, Hanging Gardens
-

Dinner with the Society

Our Speaker can't join us this month, so come if you would just like to socialize with the regulars. The 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

June – Casper Curto & Daryl Ducharme

July – Debbie Fong & Saeid Nourizadzh

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from “Knox” to “Polk” are responsible for bringing refreshments to the June 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

July 8-10

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate's International Orchid Fair, Celebrating 25 years! Held annually under festive, open-air canopies, with 50 orchid growers from around the world. Earl Warren Showgrounds, Hwy 101 & Las Positas, Santa Barbara, CA
(800)553-3387

www.orchidfair.com sboc@sborchid.com

September 29–October 2

Hilo Orchid Society 53rd Annual Orchid Show & Sale, Edith Kanakaole Tennis Stadium, 699 Piilani St., Hilo, HI.

Contact: Carol A. Siebenrock, PO Box 990, Kurtistown, HI 96760; (808) 968-8196.

CULTURE SESSION: Orchid ER Trudy Hadler

Have you ever almost lost a plant to disease, pests, or accident? Do you have rare species CTD? Are their leaves DFO? Trudy will discuss the various ways to identify the cause and administer life saving measures, STAT. Some situations seem hopeless, but don't be too quick to record TOD. Extraordinary measures are not always needed, sometimes just common sense encouragement that does not violate your specimen's DNR. Other times they're DRT. Let Trudy give you the needed Rx to keep your collection ever growing.

October 12–16

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show and AOS Members Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, One Doubletree Dr., Rohnert Park, CA.

Contact: Dr. Earl Rathbun, 1920 Grace Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95404; (707) 528-1671

November 11-13

Orchid Society of California Show, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA. Contact: Francisco Baptista, 375 Warwick Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

(510) 635-2845 chicosorchids@yahoo.com

Need more? See the AOS Calendar online at:
<http://orchidweb.org/aos/events/shows.aspx>

AOS Awards

Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland, May 16, 2005

Dendrobium krameri 'Cozette Ice'
Exhibited by Kreg Martin
CBR (prov)

Epigeneium lyonii 'Profusion' (aka treacherianum)
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 77, CCM 86

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

June in Your Orchid Garden

We normally expect some of the driest weather of the year in June, but this year, who knows? Our May rainfall totals have exceeded most norms and our cymbidiums, among other cool growers, are still in bud and spike as Memorial Day fades into the past and we look ahead to summer.

So, cultural tasks should probably resemble April or May rather than the typical June of past years. My guess is our plants are just as perplexed at the weather as we are, only they show this confusion by delaying their growth or bloom until conditions seem more 'normal' to their natural state. What this means is don't react strongly to the fact that plants that have bloomed regularly for you in May or June hasn't even sent up a spike yet.

Conversely, we don't want to fertilize until we see signs of growth in our orchids and not just because it is 'summer' in our cultural schedule. If you are anxious to fertilize, use a balanced product (20-20-20) or other formula. Follow the dilution rates on the package. On the other hand, salts from the fertilizers we use tend to accumulate over time, so take the op-

portunity during any heavy watering to flush them out of the media and sides of our pots.

June is a great month for re-potting, every orchidist's source of guilt. Either we delay too long and let the poor plant stay pinched in its pot for another year, or, worse, sit in decaying bark, or we are too excited about separating the plant into divisions and end up with several small plants that won't be as vigorous a specimen as before, or, occasionally, we follow the advice of the cultural experts and take the time to pick the correct pot size, clean our utensils, and find the appropriate media for our growing environment and do a fantastic job of repotting!

With Cattleyas, Dendrobiums and other sympodials that are finishing up their blooming, take advantage of the extra moisture and humidity of late spring to divide or repot now before summer heat (or, in Berkeley, fog) sets in. June is also great for re-setting vandaceous orchids whose baskets have deteriorated. Keikis (off-shoots) also can be most safely removed now.

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**International
Orchid Fair**
July 8-10, 2005



Visit the Fair!
Blooming to bare-root plants for purchase, potting demonstrations & friendly expertise! Growers bringing plants from around the world!

Visit the Nursery!
Open year-round, with specials on Orchid Fair Weekend!

Visit Santa Barbara!
Maps, travel and lodging.

Three-day event held on the central lawn under festive tents at Santa Barbara's Earl Warren Showgrounds.

Fifty orchid growers from the exotic reaches of Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, New Zealand, Peru, Taiwan and Venezuela, as well as the continental U.S. and Hawaii.

Purchase blooming to bare-root orchids, species to intergeneric hybrids from the whole orchid alphabet: graceful Angraecums, classic Cattleyas, stately Paphiopedilums to towering Vandas.



**Santa Barbara Orchid Estate
INTERNATIONAL
ORCHID FAIR**

Grand Anniversary!
July 8-10, 2005

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA *(see maps)*
Hours: Friday-Saturday: 9AM to 5PM and Sunday: 10AM to 4PM
Admission is FREE - Parking is \$5

Celebrating 25 Years!
You won't want to miss this special event and the summer-blooming varieties!
Scroll to Orchid Vendors
Scroll to Orchid Fair Festivities



A Weekend of Orchids from Around the World! Every year in July for 25 years orchid enthusiasts have flocked to the Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair; the first of its kind in the world! Orchid growers from around the world are here to exchange plants and knowledge. Blooming to bare-root orchid plants for purchase, potting demonstrations and friendly orchid expertise! Orchid Fair is held outdoors under festive, open-air canopies at Earl Warren Showgrounds in beautiful Santa Barbara.



Learn about orchid culture from experienced orchid growers and attend free potting demonstrations
Find out why people are crazy about orchids! Enjoy the majestic beauty, fragrance and sometimes strangeness of lesser-known summer-blooming varieties

Visit Santa Barbara Orchid Estate's Open-house Weekend at the Nursery

President's Message

This month we are pleased to welcome Dan Newman, our own renowned grower of cool (and cool growing) things. Please take a moment, if you haven't already done so, and read Dan's bio on the front page of this newsletter. Not only is he a master grower, but he has amassed a world-class collection of plants from his association with Walter Teague and travels to Central and South America.

The final totals are in for our May show, and it looks like we will continue to meet for at least another year! Seriously, Paula Shiu did

an excellent job as Show Chair and I speak for both she and myself and the Board in thanking everyone who helped the Society in this very large endeavor.

Finally, we are going to start publicizing our Raffle Table more prominently in our newsletter, so members can get an idea of what is available before they come to the meeting. We would like to see if more members can participate in the raffle table drawing if we schedule it earlier in the evening, so if you have any feedback about this, please let me know!

Species in Focus - *Lycaste skinneri* Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador

This species primarily inhabits the cloud forests of Guatemala. Its white (alba) form, commonly known as the Nun's Orchid, is the National Flower of Guatemala. Because of its special status it is widely cultivated in Guatemala and therefore cannot be considered endangered. Because it is easily propagated it also widely available in the United States.

Unfortunately *Lycaste skinneri* is now very rare in the wild due to economic development

and over-collection. Attempts to ship flasks of seedlings of *Lycaste skinneri* to Guatemala from abroad for re-introduction into its former range was initially blocked by its listing as an Appendix I species under the CITES Treaty. Orchid species listed under Appendix I are considered endangered, and their movement across international borders is expressly forbidden in an attempt to eradicate the illegal poaching and trade of such species. *Lycaste skinneri* has since been delisted, and presumably this project has moved ahead.

Greenhouse Tours

We will be visiting the greenhouse of Earle and Sharalyn Stebben, and then to Carol Klonowski's greenhouse where we will also be having our annual newcomers bar-b-queue. This will be done in August. Any suggestions for July? Give me a call:

(510) 569-8683 Mimi Rose

For Rent \$850/month

Studio apartment attached to single family home in Oakland hills on 1 acre. Private entrance, kitchen, bathroom, Bay view. Wonderful growing environment.

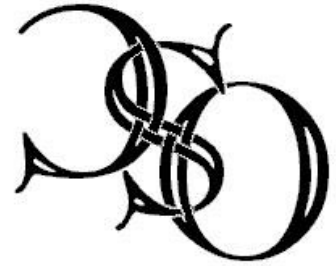
Room for shadehouse.

Included in rent; all utilities, cable TV., dsl.

Call Mimi Rose (510) 569-8683

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



Orchid Society of California
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www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
