

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, June 20, 2006
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: Mini-Catts **Alan Koch**

JUNE 2006

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln, California. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with three Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, a girlfriend and a professor got him interested in other orchids. By the time he went to graduate school in 1974, in Los Angeles he had discovered many orchids that grew well outdoors. He has moved five times in his life because of his orchid obsession and the need for more growing space. The last time that he moved, he purchased 10 acres of land so that his 350,000 orchids will never have to move again.

His specialty is miniature and compact Cattleyas which account for 70% of his inventory. Alan is an internationally known speaker who has published several articles. He has been a past member of the Judging Committee and Research Committee for the American Orchid Society as well as an Accredited Judge and past Chairperson of the Pacific Judging Center. Alan has also served two terms on the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for Orchid Digest. Orchids have been a full time vocation since 1982.

Be sure not to miss this exciting meeting!

CULTURE SESSION: **Do's & Don't with Orchids in the Home**

Not everyone grows in large greenhouses; so Mr. Koch will cover the "do's" and "don'ts" of growing orchids in the home.

Plants for the opportunity table will be furnished by Gold Country Orchids.

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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 Gold Country Orchids
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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

JUNE - Tommy Kam & Alex

JULY - Stig Bjork & Mary Lou Smith

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from "Fabini" to "Kuhn" 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

FOURTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY!!

"ORCHID SPECIES SPECTACULAR"

Huntington Library Art collections and Botanical Gardens
San Marino, California

Saturday, June 24, 2006 □ Noon to 8:00 pm

Expert Lectures □ Flower Displays □ Orchid Sales □ Dinner

ORCHID DIGEST DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

LOU MENEZES from Brazil

And also lectures by:

Fred Clarke, Leon Glicenstein, Mark Hachadorian,

Erich Michel, Marnie Turkel

Vendors : Andy's Orchids, Cal Orchids, Hoosier Orchids,

Marnie Turkel, Sunset Valley Orchids

Tickets: \$60 for afternoon Seminars, Dinner
and evening Distinguished Speaker Event

Make Your Reservations Now!

Please Contact: Simons Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal
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Phone: (562) 431-1247 Fax: (562) 431-1247

E-mail: orchidsimonef@aol.com

Need more? See the AOS Calendar online at:

<http://orchidweb.org/aos/events/shows.aspx>

Greenhouse Tours

Native Orchids Hike

On July 23, 2006, we will be meeting in front of the garden center @ 9a.m. and car-pooling (or meet us at the car park near the junction of highway 92 and Skyline).

We will be hiking through the Pescadero area led by well known photographer, lecturer, and orchid grower Ron Parsons. Some of the native, wild growing, orchids we hope to see are *piperia elegans* and *spiranthes romanzoffiana*. Please invite your friends and acquaintances who may be interested, to join us on our quest. There will be a fee of \$5 for members, and \$10 for non members.

Any questions? Comments?

Please Contact Mimi Rose:

rose4mimi@yahoo.com (510) 569-8683

Welcome to our new members!

Kim Aarif, Malti & Tarlochan Bhatia, Judith Bottger, Kevin & Sherry Bracken, Eileen Carlin-Goldberg, Linda Cass, Anna Chai, David Chan, Theron Chow, Jill Cooperider, Mark Estis, Walt & Jane Fahlman, Robert & Therese Fernandez, Josephine HalbersJadt, Christine Harvey, Tom & Jeanne Hefferman, Cheryl Henderson, Mabrie Huff, Linda Hupp-Time, Wayne Ito, Rose Jaochico, Lillian Kurtyka, Cathye Leonard and Victor Brown, Leslie O'Connelly, Mase O'Loughlin, Gwynn Pardee, Amy Roth, Norine Shima, Nancy Starr, Chin Chau Su, Steve Thai, Paola & Linda Tuazon

Species in focus: *Catasetums*

CULTURE OF CATASETINAE, SCHLECTER

by Harold Hills

The Sub-tribe *Catasetinae* includes the Genera *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cynoches*, *Dressleria*, and *Mormodes*. Culture of *Dressleria* even though once included in the genus *Catasetum* is different. Do not try to grow *Dressleria* species using these suggestions.

The plants of Tribe *Catasetinae* are widespread in lowland tropical areas of South and Central America up to elevations of about 1200-1500 meters. Most of the discussion which follows pertains particularly to *Catasetum* a genus with 80-120 species. The plants can generally be found growing on trees, tree stumps, or old fence posts. The plants are weedy and tend to be fairly abundant once you find the first plant or plants.

The highly fragrant flowers of the genus *Catasetum* can be male or female depending on the condition under which they are grown. Female flowers will often be produced under conditions of high light and low moisture. Males are produced in shadier situation of higher moisture. Aluminum foil caps placed over the tip of developing inflorescences seems to insure more male flowers. The male flowers are more attractive and are noted for the way in which the pollinia are fired out of the flowers if the sensitive triggers are touched.

Growing *catasetums* should be no more difficult than growing your other orchids or house plants which like warm temperatures and lots of light. In their native habitat they generally experience a dry period of several months. During this period the plants lose their leaves and are dormant. When the plants are in the leafless condition, they should be watered only enough to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling (once or twice a month maybe less). They can be killed very rapidly by over watering when in a leafless condition. Death seems to happen almost overnight. If in doubt, no leaves, no water, is probably safer. I regularly forced my plants into dormancy by cutting off any remaining leaves in November.

Catasetums will do well in a variety of potting media so long as they are fertilized and watered regularly. To simplify your watering requirements it is probably best to use the potting medium which has been used for your other orchids. Sphagnum moss works well for most people. I have used a mixture of fresh and composted horse manure, and charcoal (1-1-1). Cow or sheep manure mixes work well also. I know one grower who uses "rock wool insulation". Other people use cork or tezontle (crushed volcanic rock) and some people attach the plants to

tree fern plaques or driftwood. I think overall that growing the plants in pots is the better method. The plants are not frost hardy and should not be exposed to temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit when in active growth. In parts of Mexico the plants do grow in areas which do receive frost, but the frost is light and rare and the plants are dormant during the times when they might get frost.

When a new growth appears at the base of the pseudobulb, is the time to repot the plant. The plants should be repotted yearly for best growth, but this is not a rigid rule. I have seen plants that have not been repotted for 5 or more years. Remove all but the last 1 or 2 pseudobulbs. I routinely divide my plants to single pseudobulbs. Old roots can be left on and will help anchor the plant in the new potting media. Once the new growth has roots about a half inch long, watering should be resumed on a regular basis. For the average grower the plants can simply be put outside during the warmer months in light shade and watered every other day when it does not rain. If grown in a greenhouse, hanging the plants in the upper part of the greenhouse will generally provide the higher light intensities and temperatures desired. *Catasetums* are heavy feeders and for optimum growth and flowering they should be fertilized weekly with whatever fertilizer you use for your other plants following package directions. If you are growing other orchids, then the usual fertilizer rated 20-20-20 or 18-18-18 is ideal.

The "backbulbs" can be used to start additional plants. Remove the old roots and lay the backbulbs down on a bench top or in a flat until a new growth starts at the bottom or sides of the pseudobulb. It may take several months for the new growth to appear on the old bulbs. Simply pot the pseudobulb so that the new growth is at the surface of the potting media. If several growths appear along the sides of the pseudobulb, then it can be laid on the surface of the potting media.

What is presented here is what has worked for me in a greenhouse devoted mostly to *catasetums* and related genera. Other people who have success with *catasetums* grow them differently and the method that works for one often does not work for another. Lots of light, warm growing conditions, regular water and fertilizer are where to start. One thing that most growers will agree on, is that excess moisture when the plants are leafless seems to be the major causes for loss of plants.



AOS Awards

**Pacific Central Supplemental Center
San Francisco, May 2, 2006**

**Pacific Central Judging Center,
Oakland, May 15, 2006**

Cymbidium Ruby Pendant 'Yen'
(Cym. Last Tango x Cym. Ruby Eyes)
Exhibited by Steve Williams
HCC 79

Brassia Edvah Loo 'Nishida' AM/AOS
(Brs. arcuigera x Brs. gireoudiana)
Exhibited by Japheth Ko
CCM 81

Masdevallia lucernula 'Elle Ronis'
species
Exhibited by Ron Parsons
CCM 81

Cymbidium Rebecca Redden 'Rebecca'
(Cym. Tropic Night x Cym. Panama Red)
Exhibited by Linsie Hu
HCC 79

**Phragmipedium caudatum v. sanderiae 'Ronald
Ciesinski'**
species
Exhibited by Chen-Hao Hsu
AM 82 and CCM 83

Epidendrum porphyreum 'So Pink Chico'
species
Exhibited by Francisco Baptista
HCC 76

Porroglossum josei 'Ecuagera'
species
Exhibited by Ron Parsons
CBR (prov.)

Paphiopedilum bellatulum 'X'
species
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn
HCC 79

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

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Announcements

Call to Serve

Hello fellow O.S.C. members! If you have been wondering how you can be more involved in YOUR Society, here's a tip: Take a look at the section in the newsletter that lists all the positions available to be filled or who the chairpersons are. Take a plunge and sign up! Or, even better remember that Chairpersons are only that: Chairpersons of committees which are probably understaffed and craving volunteers just like yourself!! Have fun, call the chair, sign up!" Thanx!

- George McRae, Board-member Chairperson/ Publicity

Newsletter available on Website

We are proud to announce that an electronic option for newsletter receipt is now available. If you feel a need to save your newsletters but can not stand the clutter, you might find this very helpful.

To retrieve or view an electronic copy of the Newsletter go to our website:

<http://www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com>

Then click the link 'newsletters' near the bottom left hand corner of the webpage. Then simply click to view the newsletter. If you wish to save it on your computer go to the file menu and select 'save as' on the menu.

In 2007, we will have an option for Electronic Receipt Only of your newsletter. This will allow us to save paper (thus saving trees!), and reduce postage and printing costs.

Show Chair and Volunteers for November Show Needed!

Our Annual show will be on us all too soon! People with ideas and that want to have lots of fun are needed to make this show our best ever! We need a show theme, a flyer design, and a Show Chair as soon as possible. If you have any ideas contact Lois Miller right away. She can be reached at: slippergal@msn.com, or 510-828-6605.

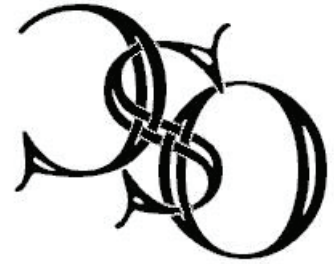
New Raffle Procedures, WooHoo!

In order to speed up the raffle so we can all go home earlier we will test drive some new procedures. (For those of you who attend Cymbidium Society meetings this will not be new at all!) During our test drive, tickets will be \$1.00 each, instead of \$1.00 per strip. You will get 6 tickets for \$5.00 instead of 6 strips for \$5.00. Also, only one color ticket will be used.

This will not change the odds at all, but will make it easier and quicker for you to determine if you are a winner! No more discovering later that you won a plant and missed it because you could not sort through your strips in time!

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



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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