

# Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, March 15, 2004  
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt  
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

## **PROGRAM TOPIC: Orchids of Australia, Especially Terrestrials Ron Parsons**

Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the Bay Area's best orchid photographers. He is a member of the Orchid Society of California, and has been growing orchids for 30 years. Ron has a special fascination for the orchids of Australia, and has taken a number of trips to observe and photograph them in their native habitat. He takes great joy in speaking about them.

Ron has taken tens of thousands of plant shots, and at present has over 25,000 orchid slides. He gives talks nationally and internationally, with a focus on orchid species. Ron has a nearly photographic memory when it comes to orchid species, which is a perfect match to his occupation. It is difficult to produce an orchid species that Ron cannot easily identify.

Ron Parson's interest in plants is not limited to orchids, and he has given talks at societies for Cacti & Succulents, Carnivorous Plants, Gesneriads and California wildflowers. Many of Ron's photographs have been published in books, magazines, newspapers and brochures, with many more pending publication.

## **Orchid Book Clearance Sale**

African Orchids in the Wild and in Cultivation  
Isobyl la Croix and Eric la Croix, 1997  
\$39.95 List price/ \$32 at March meeting  
Only 3 available

Manual of Orchids  
Consultant Editor Joyce Stewart, 1995  
\$49.95 List price/ \$40 at March meeting  
Only 4 available

The Genus *Cypripedium*: A Botanical Magazine Monograph  
Phillip Cribb, 1997  
\$39.95 List price/ \$32 at March meeting  
Only 4 available

(A few pre-paid orders from the November show are still waiting to be picked up. Please come see Mike at the back of the meeting room.)

March 2004

---

### Inside this issue:

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>March in your Orchid Garden</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bay Area AOS Awards</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Contact Us</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>President's Message</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mother's Day Show &amp; Sale</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Member Survey</b>	<b>7</b>

### Meeting Details

- Plant sales will open at 6:30 PM.
  - Bowen Trophy judging start at 7:00 PM
  - No skill session
  - Meeting starts at 7:15 PM.
  - Raffle table will be provided by Anna Chai
-

## 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 from "Gionini" to "Kingsley" are responsible for bringing refreshments to the March 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

### 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 12-14

San Joaquin Orchid Society Show, Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA. Contact: Pat Saculla, 10419 E. Hwy 26, Stockton, CA 95215; (209) 931-2582.

### March 19-21

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA. Contact: Frank Cobb, 2442 La Costa Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455; (805) 937-7559; sborchid@west.net.

### March 27-28

Napa Valley Orchid Society Exhibit and Sale, Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa, CA. Contact: Frieda Lloyd, 1107 Holmes Ave., Napa, CA 94559; (707) 224-6233; friedialloyd@aol.com.

### April 3-4

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show, Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave., San Jose, CA. Contact: Conrad Kumata, 19987 Knollwood Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070; (408) 996-8335.

### April 3-4

Golden Gate Cymbidium Society, "A Cymbidium Garden Party" Show & Sale, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Lake Merritt Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA 94610  
Free Admission

### April 8-10

Maui Orchid Society Easter Show, Maui Mall, 70 E. Kaahumanu Ave., Kahului, HI. Contact: Ivan Komoda, PO Box 576, Makawao, HI 96768; (808) 572-0756; orchidhi@maui.net.

### April 17-18

Sacramento Orchid Society Spring Show, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Richard Heisler, 6375 Reservoir Dr., Granite Bay, CA 95746; (916) 989-1650.

### May 7-9

Orchid Society of California Mother's Day Show & Sale, Friday, 9:00am - 7:00pm, Saturday & Sunday, 9:00am - 5:00pm, Lakeside Garden Center - Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California.  
Free Admission

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



## March in Your Orchid Garden

We are well into the flowering season for cymbidiums now. In honor of the Bowen trophy, we are reprinting some additional details about cymbidium culture, courtesy of the Cymbidium Society of America:

In their natural habitats, cymbidiums grow at the higher altitudes in the temperate zone of mid-Asia (China, Japan) down through southeast Asia and extending south with a number of species in Australia. The climatic conditions found there are also found at sea level in the coastal regions of California. The cycle of cool nights and warm days during the spring months in these regions is necessary for flower spike bud formation. Warmer weather in the summer enhances the growth and development of the flower spikes for the following season.

Cymbidiums can tolerate considerable summer heat and winter chill. Lows of 29 degrees F and highs up to 100 degrees can be handled for short periods. Plant foliage usually will not freeze at 27 degrees if the weather includes some moisture and air movement. Flower spikes which are soft and tender will suffer damage if exposed. Although flower spike buds are visible often as early as summer through fall, the initiation of these buds is believed by many to be several months earlier when there are a series of 55 degree F nights and warm days along with a 25 degree temperature span between day and night temperatures.

During the spring, summer and fall growing season, plants should have as many hours of filtered sunlight as possible. The color of the foliage should be golden-green (plants with rich, dark green leaves are very likely not receiving sufficient light). As flower spikes break sheath showing the buds, many of the pastels, whites and greens will profit from shading to avoid "staining" of the sepals from dark pigments created by exposure to sunlight. This will improve



the clarity of flower color.

Cymbidiums are most frequently seen growing as potted plants although they can be grown in raised beds in the ground. In either case, the growing medium must be free-draining and acidic in reaction. Currently, potting composts contain one or more of the following in varying proportions: small bark pieces (Fir or Pinus radiata "down under"), perlite (Spongerok), redwood compost, coarse peat moss, sand, crushed volcanic rock, and/or oak leaf mold. Any potting mix should always be moistened ahead of use.

During the warmer months when actively growing, cymbidiums can handle copious amounts of water - the purer the better. One of the reasons for heavy watering in most areas is the need to leach out salts which accumulate from use of tap water. The fact remains that they are very sensitive to more than traces of the natural salts found in tap water and will exhibit "leaf tip dieback" with continued use of "salty" tap water if not leached out.

Fertilizer should be water soluble and balanced, with an application once or twice per month. Some hobbyists use commercial pelleted slow-release fertilizer with good results.

With good culture, cymbidiums are relatively pest-free. However, they can be subject to infestations of several types of scale, spider mites (on the underside of the leaves), aphids of flower stalks, buds and flowers. Slugs and snails, while not a problem with the foliage, feed on the tender, new flower spikes, buds and flowers. With all of these pests, vigilance is the by-word. Check plants regularly.

## New Members

- Frank Wu of Half Moon Bay
- Robert Meghnagi of Oakland
- Anne Kaliczak of Palo Alto

# AOS Awards

## Pacific Orchid Exposition Feb. 19, 2004

Bulbophyllum. sumatranum 'Taida'

Exhibited by: Taida Orchids

HCC 76

Calanthe sieboldii var. kawakamii 'Good Fortune' ,

Exhibited by: Valerie Handerson

HCC 79 CCE 91

Cattleya loddigesii 'Aranda B'

Exhibited by: Aranda Orchids

HCC 75

Masd. un-named hybrid 'Orange Sherbert'

(Masd. White Swallow x Falcon's Sunrise),

Exhibitor: Golden Gate Orchids

HCC 78

Maxillaria perryae 'Walter'

Exhibited by: Ecuagenera

CBR (prov)

Onc. croesus 'Pololei'

Exhibited by: Ontario Orchids

CCM 81

Paph. un-named hybrid 'Refreshing'

(Paph. Via Exacto x Voodoo Magic),

Exhibited by: McLellan Botanicals

AM 83

Paph. Norito Hasegawa 'Norito's Charm'

(Paph. malipoense x Paph. armeniacum),

Exhibited by: Sherwood Orchids

HCC 75

Phrag. besseae 'Sherwood'

Exhibited by: Sherwood Orchids

AM 84

Pot. Little Toshie 'Golden Fantasy'

(Sc. Beaufort x Blc. Toshie Aoki),

Exhibited by: Japheth Ko

HCC 75

Wilsonara Dangold 'Mark Daniel'

(Oda. Danilo x Odcdm. Isler's Goldregen),

Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids

HCC 77

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

# President's Message

This is the monthly meeting where we award the Bowen trophy to the best cymbidium brought in by a non-commercial grower. The regular culture session will not be held this month, to allow for viewing of the plants brought in by members.

Therefore, the general meeting will start at 7:15, followed by Show&Tell and the Speaker before breaking for refreshments. And somewhere in the proceedings we will have the judges' announcement for the Bowen trophy winner. Good luck to everyone who enters!

Many thanks to all the members who brought plants for the OSC exhibit at the San Francisco show. We didn't win any prizes this year, but, as Jean Lee, President of the SF Orchid Society told me, it's exhibits by the visiting societies that make their show a real treat for visitors to Fort Mason and ours got more than a few favorable comments.

Preparations for our annual Mother's Day Sale are underway, and once again, please volunteer as much time as you can spare during the three show days and pre-show setup evening. At the March meeting, we will start circulating the clipboards asking for signups to help us plan our staffing for Plant Hotel, Plant Doctor, Security, etc. If you can't specify an exact time, put down your contact information and let us tell you where you are needed! And, once again, we will have a Preview Night for the Thursday night setup volunteers to purchase plants and the Society will pay the sales tax, a discount of over 8%. More details about all of this will follow when our Show Co-Chairs, Lois Miller and Caspar Curto provide Show information at our meeting and in the April newsletter.

*Carol Klonowski*

## From the American Orchid Society

There are a couple of things I'd like to tell you about this month.

The first is really fun and also very useful. I learned about it from the Heart Of Dixie society newsletter. My thanks to them for alerting me and for producing a fantastic newsletter. There's a new tool on Orchidweb - a pronunciation guide to orchid names. You do need to have a sound card on your computer but most fairly new ones will be able to handle it. Once you're on the homepage (<http://orchidweb.org/>) click on "About Orchids" and then go to "Orchids A - Z". Then all you have to do is open a genus and click on the spelling of the name and you will hear the correct pronunciation! What a great learning tool for new growers.

The next item concerns the DASSA award. This award was created by our committee to recognize the many contributions made to the AOS by our wonderful affiliated

societies. The first year it was available we had several nominations but we've had none lately. I know there are still some great societies out there. If you think of one you'd like to nominate just let me know and I can send you a form. The form spells out the details of the criteria for the award quite precisely. Once we receive the nominations, members of the Affiliated Societies Committee review them and make recommendations to the Trustees. The closing date for this year's nominations - so that the award can be presented at the Fall Members Meeting - will be August 31st.

Thank you all for taking the time to help your society. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help.

*Marion*

# Orchid Society of California

Lakeside Garden Center – Oakland

## Mother's Day Show & Sale

May 7th, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Friday, 9:00am - 7:00pm

Saturday & Sunday, 9:00am – 5:00pm

*Co-Chair, Lois Miller*, 510-793-4243, [lmiller@corus.jnj.com](mailto:lmiller@corus.jnj.com)

*Co-Chair, Caspar Curto*, 510-562-9676 [CasparCurt@aol.com](mailto:CasparCurt@aol.com)

*Plant Purchasing, Set-up & Break Down* **Carol Klonowski**, 510-538-3092, or email [cklonowski@aol.com](mailto:cklonowski@aol.com)

*Publicity, York Lee*, 510-547-5967, or email [yorkclee@juno.com](mailto:yorkclee@juno.com)

*Advisor: Past MDS chair, Paula Shiu*, 510-237-0471, or email [orchidchef@earthlink.net](mailto:orchidchef@earthlink.net)

*Security, Dan Chiappone*, 925-943-2022, or email [DChiapej@aol.com](mailto:DChiapej@aol.com)

*Plant Hotel, MaryLou Smith*, 510-538-9977, or email [MLRLS@aol.com](mailto:MLRLS@aol.com)

*Sales, Jane Tsushima*, 510-635-5129

*Plant Doctor, MaryLou Smith*, 510-538-9977, or email [MLRLS@aol.com](mailto:MLRLS@aol.com)

*Cymbidium Divisions, Carol Klonowski*, 510-538-3092, or email [cklonowski@aol.com](mailto:cklonowski@aol.com)

*Membership, Maria Chow*, 510-317-2032, or email [maria218@pacbell.net](mailto:maria218@pacbell.net)

### **SET UP TIME** – Thursday, May 7, 2:00pm – 9:00pm

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and its success will determine the quality of our programming and plant opportunity table for the next year, so it is important that we all contribute. If you have not already done so, please sign up to volunteer for at least one shift (3 hours) at the Mother's Day Sale. A sign up sheet will be passed around again at the meeting. We need help with setting up the sales and display areas, assisting customers, security, etc. As an added bonus for volunteering, volunteers will have the opportunity to purchase their pick of plants at a discount based on the Society picking up the sales tax (8%) on Thursday night, 7:00pm to 9:00pm. To qualify for this offer, you must be on the volunteer sign up sheet. Please pick up some flyers at the meeting and place them at places of business and pass them out to interested parties. We need many customers to make this sale a success.

### **DISPLAYS**

We intend to make two displays: one educational in nature, and the other a general display of member plants. For the educational display, we need seed pods, flasks and community pots, various potting materials, items that depict natural habitat, and various plants representing distinct climatic conditions (rainforest, terrestrial, etc). We would like species plants, if possible.

For the general display, we would like to thrill and delight the public with the variation and beauty of orchids, so please bring your blooming plants (including species) on the day of setup, Thursday, May 7, from 2 PM to 8 PM. For species plants, please indicate the country and habitat of origin, and any other cultural information that may be of interest to the general public.

**DONATIONS OF OVERGROWN CYMBIDIUMS ARE NEEDED** to make divisions for sale and for demonstrations. If you have any sitting around in your yard that would be an enormous task for you to divide, please call Carol Klonowski, phone # 510-538-3092, or email [cklonowski@aol.com](mailto:cklonowski@aol.com), as soon as possible. If you wish to have a division back from your overgrown plant, one will be made for you.

### **MEMBER PLANT SALES**

Members are urged to sell plants. Donations of unwanted plants are also accepted. If you sell plants, the society retains a 20% commission and you are limited to 25 plants. If you would like to sell more than 25 plants, an exception to this rule will be made if we are running out of plants to sell. Please call Lois Miller at 510-793-4243 to be placed on an on-call list to sell more plants. Please see the **2004 Member Plant SALE Instructions** for further details.

## 2004 OSC Member Survey

### Membership and the Society

- If you were a new member in 2003, give us your impression of your first year:
- Do you get enough cultural information for your level of expertise? If not, what more can you suggest?
- Would you be interested in long-range trips to shows like Santa Barbara in society-arranged transport? If so, how would you like it organized (i.e. one-day trip, full-weekend, arrival timed for show preview, etc)
- Can you accept your newsletter via email instead of postal service? (hard copies would still be available at meetings).

### Meetings

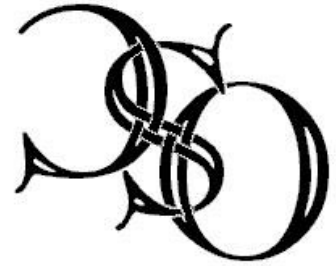
- Who were your favorite speaker(s) in the past year? Why?
- Check any of the following subjects for speaker topics, plus add any not listed:
  1. Conservation/CITIES
  2. Orchids of Cuba
  3. Fragrance judging of Orchids
  4. Other.....

### Miscellaneous

Liked the Banquet? The Ice Cream Social? The Plant Auction? Tell us why or why not!

Next Meeting: Monday, March 15, 2004  
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

---

## **In this issue:**

⇒ **Ron Parsons, Australian terrestrials**

⇒ **Mother's Day Show and Sale**

⇒ **Book Clearance Sale**

⇒ **Member Survey, second chance**

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

---