

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, May 17, 2004
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: *Bulbophyllums*

Bill Thoms

Bill Thoms collected his first orchid in 1969 when he rescued plants of *Enc. tampensis* in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He actually just picked them off trees pushed over for a new Condo development, but that's not as impressive. He built a successful orchid nursery in Tampa named Hilltop House during the early 70's. In the 80's he met and married Doris Dukes, a member of the Tampa Orchid club. After 20 years in the retail business they retired and moved several thousand of their favorite orchid plants into new greenhouses at home. They are now relaxing and continuing their hybridizing program of about 200 crosses per year. The collection grew back to about 10,000 plants, likewise the awards grew: 58 Awards for Culture in over 20 genera including 2 Certificates for Cultural Excellence (90 points or better); First Class Certificates for *Cirrhopetalums*, *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*; and about 150 total awards in all categories. Bill recently received one of the most prestigious awards given to a hybridizer, an Award of Distinction which is given for a worthy new avenue of breeding. The plant that received the award was a cross he made between two *Trias* species and was named *Trias Emily Clarkson*.

They now live in Placida, south of Venice, with about 6000 plants. Bill gives talks all over the country on a wide range of topics from his specialty, "*Bulbophyllums*", through "Dr. Diag Nosy" (which has members bring in plants with problems and they are shown how to fix them) and "Expanded Bloom Table" (where the plants on the bloom table are given the time and attention they deserve). He also has a wide range of slide shows of Orchid Shows and Orchid Rescue (Collecting) in countries all over the world. These all are presented in a funny style that helps growers understand how the plants work and they all revolve around the Culture of Orchids. He helps the beginner grower with lots of advice about fixing problems and has a wealth of accumulated information for the more advanced grower, too!

No matter what kind of plants you grow, Bill will give you tips to make them grow and bloom better.

Many people say he is one of the best speakers they have ever heard. Come and see for yourself.

Bill Thoms will also be providing the plant table.

May 2004

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Meeting Details

- Plant sales will open at 6:30 PM.
 - Bill Thoms will be offering Plants for Sale.
 - No Pre-program culture session.
 - Meeting starts at **7:15 PM.**
 - Raffle table will be provided by Bill Thoms.
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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

Calendar

May 22-23

D & D Flowers Open House & Sale, Hwy. 92, Half Moon Bay. Sat & Sun. 9 AM - 3 PM.
Dennis Olivas, 925-969-1246

May 29-30

Yakima Orchid Society Show, Yakima Area Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr., Yakima, WA. Contact: Jeff Kozma, 5105 Sycamore Dr., Yakima, WA 98901; (509) 225-3465

June 4-6

New Orleans Orchid Society Show, Lakeside Shopping Center, 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA. Contact: Gail Freeman, 2301 Belmont Place, Metairie, LA 70001; (504) 888-4177; bfreeman@smith.com

June 5-6

Conejo Orchid Society Show, Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA. Contact: Joe Grodell, 1296 Potter Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360; (805) 492-1569; jgrodell@merlenorman.com

June 17-20

Hilo Orchid Society Show, Edith Kanakaole Tennis Stadium, 699 Piilani St., Hilo, HI. Contact: Sandra Song, 1289 Kilauea Ave., Unit A, Hilo, HI 96720; (808) 933-9212

May Greenhouse Tour

We will be taking a tour of Ann Chai's greenhouses on Sunday May 23, 2004, at 1:00 PM. We will meet in front of the garden center at 11:45 AM and car pool over to the peninsula. **Driving instructions will be provided at the May meeting.** Anna Chai's address is 2508 Sherborne Dr., Belmont, CA. Phone 650 592-7263

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from "Powell" to "Szilard" are responsible for bringing refreshments to the May 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.

Orchid Web Sites An assortment

Papua New Guinea Orchid News
<http://www.orchidspng.com>

Bribie Island Orchid Society
<http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com>

Denver Orchid Society
<http://denverorchidsociety.org>

Australian Orchid Council Inc.
<http://www.orchidsaustralia.com>

Internet Orchid Photo Encyclopedia
<http://www.orchidspecies.com/>

Native Orchids of the United States
(Buried deep inside Ochidmania)
http://www.orchids.org/ooc/na_orchids/us_orchids_java.shtml

A really small town in Florida named Orchid
<http://www.pe.net/~rksnow/flcountyorchid.htm>

Orchid Photography by Bettina Sohst.
<http://www.tigerorchids.com>

UK Hardy Orchid Society
<http://www.hardyorchidsociety.org.uk/>

May in Your Orchid Garden

May is the month when we are finally convinced spring is here. Weather is more consistent, with nights remaining cool and sunny, breezy days providing near perfect conditions for most of our orchids.

Many of us have purchased plants from the various shows and sales of the past winter and early spring. These plants, depending on their size and origins, came potted up in sphagnum moss, dura-rock, bark, lava rock, and/or various mixtures of bark/perlite/charcoal. Some plants came mounted, others were sold bareroot.

No matter what the media, it is important to examine its condition to determine if the plant requires a different media, such as plants planted in peat moss or plugs made of peat moss. Peat moss can break down quickly or, once dried, actually repel water away from the roots of a plant. If your plant's roots are not extending out from the plug into the rest of the pot, they could be having problems penetrating the peat moss' hard layer of dried material. Rehydrate, or remove the plug and place the plant into pot-

ting material that is more durable and hospitable.

Likewise, plants sold in sphagnum moss may not like permanent residence in such a media: cattleyas should be repotted into a well draining, well-drying media such as a bark mixture, and not left with 'wet feet' sitting in moist moss all day long.

Bareroot plants should be examined to determine if mounting or potting would be the best cultural option. If the seller did not give you any advice, consult other growers or fellow members about similar plants in conditions similar to your own.

Finally, remember that most plants sold at shows have been pampered at a level most of us cannot maintain! The fertilizer/watering/pest control programs at the growers' nurseries can mean a plant goes into a bit of shock if suddenly no food or erratic watering is now the case. Try to wean these newcomers to your collection off of their old maintenance routine to the 'benign neglect' of the rest of your plants!

Show Theme

OSC November Show November 13th & 14th 2004.

As we wrap up our Mother's Day event, it is time to start planning for our November Show. Please start thinking about a theme. A good theme allows for creative and interesting displays. We will be asking for suggestions at our next meeting, and hope to put it to a vote by members at the June meeting.

If you have a suggestion, and will not be able to make the May meeting, please feel free to share your ideas with me:

Lois Miller
(510) 793-4243
slippergal@msn.com

President's Message

This is the monthly meeting where we sit back and, hopefully, reflect on a successful Mother's Day Show. And, we are thrilled to have Bill Thoms, renowned grower, as our speaker. The regular culture session will not be held this month, to allow Bill to have an expanded program to include cultural information that will give us hints about how to grow Bulbophyllums and other orchids.

Therefore, the general meeting will start at 7:15, followed by Show&Tell and the Speaker before breaking for refreshments.

I would like to call your attention to the memorial article for Bea Emery below, as well as information for individual members who want to contribute something in Bea's name to the AOS. Most of us will always remember Bea as an orchid enthusiast and longtime member who gave us the benefit of her experience at shows, sales, and, of course, attendance at every single meeting. I, for one, cannot think of a meeting where Bea wasn't there, sitting attentively with Noble. They were the first ones to arrive and one of the last to leave, and her corsages that sold at our Mother's Day show were always in demand. On behalf of our society, I extend our sincerest sympathies to Noble and their children and grandchildren.

On behalf of the Board I am pleased to announce not only a contribution to the AOS in Bea's name, but the endowment of the Bea Emory Trophy, given to the member in our November show who is judged as Best in Show for Artistic Expression. This means any exhibit, craft, painting, or other item of creativity exhibited at the show will be eligible. Let's all plan to try to be the first recipient of this new award!

Many thanks to all the members who volunteered, displayed plants, and/or purchased plants from our Mother's Day show. As of this writing the results are not complete, but regardless of the financial goal of the show, I am very thankful for the work of everyone to put on a fundraiser like this every year. On behalf of co-chairs Lois Miller and Caspar Curto, thanks to each and every one of you volunteers!

And, of course, we will have more detailed information regarding the show at our May meeting. See you there.

Carol Klonowski

Beatrice Emery ('Bea') Remembered

Bea Emery passed peacefully April 16, 2004, at the age of 86. She was born Nov. 20, 1917, in Manchester, N.H., one of three daughters born to Jeremiah DuBois and Gladys Madden DuBois. In 1941 she graduated from the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences in New Hampshire then married Noble C. Emery July 4, 1941. They have three daughters.

They became interested in growing orchids in 1961 and at different times belonged to orchid societies in Texas, Florida and California. After Noble's retirement in 1981 the Emerys moved to Napa and joined several Bay Area orchid societies including the Orchid Society of California.

They attended many triennial World Orchid Conferences held in New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, South Africa, Scotland, Brazil and Canada. Because of Bea's orchid activities, a hybrid was named in her honor -- "Oncidium Beatrice Emery" -- which appeared on the cover of the brochure of the 1987 World Orchid conference held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Bea was also involved in a number of arts and crafts activities that resulted in her being an active member of the Napa Rock and Gem Club; she also retained her membership in the Oak Cliff Gem and Mineral Society of Dallas, Texas. Beatrice spent her entire adult life dedicated to her home, family and love of her myriad of artistic endeavors.

Survivors include her beloved husband, Noble C. Emery, her daughters Marion Emery, Carol Beatty, Martha Leviton, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her sister, Mildred Marier.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351.

AOS Awards

April 19, 2004 - Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland

Cymbidium unnamed hybrid 'Laura's Theme'
(Cym. Mad Doctor x Cym. devonianum)
Exhibited by Gloria Bygdnes
CCM 81 HCC 76

Masdevallia Golden Sunrise 'Zebra'
(Masd. Dean Haas x Masd. Falcon Sunrise)
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 75

Masdevallia unnamed hybrid 'Red Heart'
(Masd. welschii x Masd. Heathii)
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
AM 81

Pterostylis baptistii 'Green Point'
Exhibited by Anna S. Chai
HCC 75

April 6, 2004 - Pacific Central Supplemental Judging Center, San Francisco

Cymbidium Music Box Dancer 'TJ'
(Cymbidium Olymilum x Cymbidium Egret)
Exhibited by: Gary Jones
HCC 77

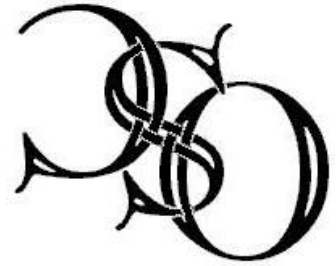
Slc. Sierra Doll 'Andromeda'
(C. walkeriana x Slc. Pink Doll)
Exhibited by: Frank Drake
HCC 77

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

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



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360 Grand Avenue #129
Oakland, CA 94610

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www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
