

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, May 16, 2005
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: Debatable Epidendrums

Dr. Patricia Harding

Patricia is the co-author of *The Cattleyas and Their Relatives, the Debatable Epidendrums* (Carl Withner and Patricia Harding, May 2004 by Timber Press, Portland Oregon, USA.) Carl Linnaeus established the genus *Epidendrum* in 1753 to include the mostly epiphytic orchid plants being sent to him from tropical America. Over time the genus grew to include more than 1000 species of evergreen epiphytic, lithophytic, or terrestrial orchids.

Some of these epidendrums were transferred to other genera. Others have yet to be divided into natural subgroups, which could be split off into their own genera. A portion of these remaining epidendrums, those with pseudobulbs, are the focus of *The Debatable Epidendrums*. The talk will cover some of the taxonomic problems encountered in the classifications, and cultural information on how to grow them.

The species to be discussed in the talk are ones that many people already have in their collections, though they are often mislabeled or unidentified. Any talk that helps put names on plants is always welcome, and it is hoped that members will feel inspired to grow some of the rarer ones of this group. Epidendrums are relatively easy to grow, bloom readily, and are disease and pest resistant. The fact that most of these species have blooms that last a relatively long time, and many are fragrant, should make them appealing to enthusiasts.

Patricia A. Harding is a retired physician. She obtained an undergraduate degree in botany before going on to study medicine. Patricia met Carl when she became involved with the American Orchid Society judging system and has enjoyed traveling and meeting people who share their love of these plants. Dr. Harding lives in western Oregon.

CULTURE SESSION: Dividing Cymbidiums

Heather Drobus of Top Hat Orchids

Heather will share her expertise on dividing *Cymbidiums*. She will guide us through special spring division and repotting. Don't miss this timely and informative session.

Raffle Table

The raffle table will be stocked with beautiful plants, many in flower or bud, from the Mother's Day Sale and Show. These plants were probably just a little too "exotic" to bring home to Mother, or too big to transport home, or too distractingly beautiful. Anyway, brought back for this special engagement, the Sale plants will be making this encore appearance on our raffle table. Budget accordingly!

May 2005

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Species in Focus	2
May in your Orchid Garden	3
Contact Us	3
Bay Area AOS Awards	4
President's Message	5

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 the Society
-

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

May – Judy Lim & John Shea

June – Casper Curto & Daryl Ducharme

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from "Fowler" to "Knowles" 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.

Calendar

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, Kunistown, HI 96760; (808) 968-8196.

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

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

Species in Focus

Epidendrum ilense (Ecuador)

This species was believed to be extinct in the wild. The Marie Selby Botanic Gardens meristemated their specimens and distributed the resulting plants to other botanic gardens and specialty growers. These plants and their seedlings have since made their way into the orchid trade and are now fairly common.

This has occurred despite the fact that *Epidendrum ilense* is not considered a particularly "showy" species. Perhaps this is because orchid growers have un-

derstood its endangered status. Attempts to reintroduce this plant into its former habitat have been unsuccessful so far.

Recently two small populations were found in the wild. Chances for continued survival are rated poor because its habitat is ideal for the cultivation of bananas, an important cash crop in Ecuador.

Greenhouser Tour

We will be visiting the garden and greenhouse of Casper Curto and Daryl Duchame on Sunday, May 22. We will meet in front of the garden center at 1:00 PM and car pool to the greenhouse. For people who prefer to drive directly;From the garden center go to 580 east (towards Hayward) exit at Edwards ave, turn right at the stop sign onto Edwards ave.. Edwards turns into 73rd ave.; go to Hillmont ave.,

turn left (look carefully down the hill before you turn, for fast moving traffic) Go to 7612 Hillmont (Look for a two story, tan house with a palm tree in front).....See you there.

Mimi Rose

Call me if you have any concerns: cell 510 569-8683 home 510 569-8683

May in Your Orchid Garden

Jump-Starting Bare Root Plants

Almost all bare root plants will re-establish without any special help as long as they are kept out of direct sun and given good moving air. Orchids are tenacious plants that do not die easily, believe it or not. The main reasons that orchids die are from too much sun, heat, over-watering, and fungus. Moisture and stagnant air often cause an already stressed plant to be attacked by fungus, or pests.

When you get a bare-root plant, handle it gently as there may already be new growth or new roots coming out. Sometimes there is even an inflorescence. Place the plant in an airy and shady location and mist thoroughly with a recommended solution of fungicide like Consan or Physan. This can remedy any unseen problems with fungus or algae. While the plants relax from being confined in a shipment box, prepare a dip for them.

There are many 'recipes' for the solution for bare root plants. One is one gallon of rainwater or relatively

sodium-free tap water, and a tablespoon of root-stimulant (vitamin E solution, KLN from DynaGrow, etc). Mix well and immerse the plant roots for several hours. Pot or mount the plants and DO NOT water for at least a week, while keeping them in a cooler, shady area than established plants.

Plants with little or no roots cannot use much water or fertilizer at this point, so don't use either. It will do more harm than good. Not watering for a week or so will encourage the plant to put out roots and find moisture. When the new roots are about 1/2 inch long, you can begin to water and even feed with a 1/4 strength fertilizer.

If the pseudobulbs are shriveled a bit, it's a sign that the plant is using its stored moisture and shows that the plant is starting to recover and seek water. With roots showing, begin to water and feed the plant as normal.

Contact Us

Officers

Carol Klonowski *President* 510-538-3092
cklonowski@aol.com
Walter Shinn *Vice President*
walter.shinn@sri.com
Lois Miller *Secretary* 510-793-4243
slippergal@msn.com
Dan Chiappone *Treasurer* 925-943-2022
Dchiapej@aol.com

Directors

Earle Stebben 510-582-3404
DeAnn Mosbey 510-521-7825
dmosbey@aol.com

Volunteers

Sharalyn Stebben *Advertising* 510-582-3404
Lois Miller *Membership Chair* 510-793-4243 slippergal@msn.com
OPEN *Publicity Chair* 510-____-____@____.com
Heather Drobus *Hospitality* 510-531-1210
Dawn Muller *Refreshments* 510-893-7244
Gerardus Staal *Special Projects* 650-328-2404
Ray Vickers-Traft *Special Projects* 510-839-9647
Mike Anderson *Newsletter Editor* 510-651-1781
vailanderson@comcast.net
Agnes Raddell *Plant Sales* 925-829-0485
Jane Tsushima *Plant Sales* 510-635-5129
Mary Lou Smith *Raffle Sales* 510-538-9977 mlrls@aol.com
Carol Klonowski *Website Goddess* 510-538-3092
cklonowski@aol.com
Mary Lou Smith *A.O.S. Representative* 510-538-9977 mlrls@aol.com
Mimi Rose *Greenhouse Tours* 510-569-8683
rose4mimi@Yahoo.com.com
Chris Martin *Librarian* lagomorph@alamedanet.net



AOS Awards

Pacific Central Supplemental Center San Francisco, April 5, 2005

Masdevallia Morning Glory 'Leon Jin'
(Masd. chaparensis x Masd. Marguerite)
Exhibited by Anna S. Chai
HCC 75

Paphiopedilum lowii 'Golden Gate'
species
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 77

Slc. Fire Lighter 'Sherwood'
(Slc. Bright Angel x Slc Orpetii)
Exhibited by Sherwood Orchids
HCC 79

Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland, April 18, 2005

Epidendrum unnamed hybrid 'Fire Demon'
(Epi. Joseph Glow x Epi. Crown Valley)
Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos
HCC 75

Phragmipedium Les Dirouilles 'God of Longevity'
(Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice x Phrag. Grande)
Exhibited by Japheth Ko
HCC 77

Pacific Orchid Exposition February 17, 2005

Cymbidium hookerianum 'Cinnabar'
species
Exhibited by Anna S. Chai
AM 81

Cymbidium un-named hybrid 'Simplicity'
(Cym. Reginetta x Cym. Horizons)
Exhibited by: Orchid Fiori D'Amore
HCC 76

Dracula un-named hybrid 'Raven'
(Drac. vampira x Drac. roezlii)
Exhibited by: John Leathers
AM 81

Epidendrum Pacific Eclipse 'Summertime'
(Star Valley x Pacific Ember)
Exhibited by Cal Orchid
HCC 78

Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Highland'
(Masd. triangularis x Masd. veitchiana)
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids
CCM 84

Odontioda un-named hybrid 'Red Beauty'
(Oda. Zorkola x Oda. Ingmar)
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids
HCC 78

Odontioda un-named hybrid 'Gina'
(Oda. Harrods Forever x Oda. Fort Point)
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids
AM 81

Otoglossum brevifolium 'Hanging Gardens'
species
Exhibited by: Dan Newman/Hanging Gardens
AM 80

Paphiopedilum Bruno 'Model'
(Paph. Leeannum x Paph. spicerianum)
Exhibited by: Golden Gate Orchids
CCM 83

Paphiopedilum Grass Valley 'Apple Tart'
(Paph. Green Gold x Paph. Divisadero)
Exhibited by: McLellan's Botanicals / Taisuco America
HCC 76

Paphiopedilum Oberhausen's Rubin 'Dark Specter'
(Paph. wilhelminae (syn glanduliferum) x Paph. sanderianum)
Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos
HCC 79

Slc. Dream Catcher 'Sonoma'
(Slc. Bright Star x Slc. Beaufort)
Exhibited by: Petite Plaisance
HCC 76

Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show February 5, 2005

Dendrochilum latifolium 'Surprise'
species
Exhibited by: Sirleen Ghileri
CCM 85

Oncidium Killer Bees 'Monterey Bay'
(Onc. concolor x Onc. Yellow Fantasy)
Exhibited by Echo Valley Orchids
HCC 79

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

President's Message

The Mother's Day Sale & Show is taking place as I write this, and regardless of whether we meet our fundraising goals, this is certain: many, many members have worked hard on the sale and many other members participated by bringing in plants for sale, or purchasing plants for themselves. To all of you who helped in one way or another, thank you very much! I will have a summary of our show in the next newsletter.

As promised, here's a summary of the responses to the member survey, continuing this month with the Meetings section. Subjects covered in this section ranged from asking one's main reason for attending meetings all the way through feedback on the various meeting activities.

Most respondents indicated 'all' when asked why they come to the monthly meetings (choices were speaker, plant sales, culture information, and socializing). Even when 'all' was not the response, multiple reasons were given which leads me to believe that most members enjoy most of the evening's activities, and almost everyone said the meeting times were okay.

Many said they purchased plants at the sales table, and at times sold plants there as well. Our plant sales are an important member benefit, and it seems as if it's enthusiastically attended.

Culture sessions were considered too short, especially when the topic was of interest to novices. Culture sessions started too soon for the folks who came to the meeting to socialize or cruise the plant sales table. Hard to squeeze in a few conversations while eye-

balling plants and keeping an ear out for the culture session to begin. Many agreed that combining the culture session with the speaker was a good blend of practical information and an entertaining presentation, and freed up a bit more time for other meeting activities.

There was a lot of comment on how long it took to do the show & tell table. Suggestions in this regard: limit plants to 3 per person, have designated experts (and not owners) do the talking, limit plants to only those that hobbyists could grow, and, my favorite, have a time limit for discussing each plant and move on (like they do in the Academy Awards for long-winded acceptance speeches!). This part of the meeting was also criticized as taking so long that it limited the amount of socializing at refreshment break and made the raffle start too late. Sounds like we need to review the whole display table process.

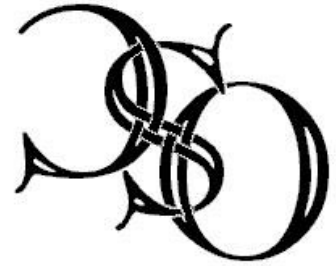
Since the raffle table is at the end of the meeting, members were asked if it could be held during the refreshments period. You know, balancing that cup of coffee and a couple of cookies while shuffling through your tickets to check the numbers! Not surprisingly, the unanimous answer was 'no'. The urge to socialize during refreshments overrode the suggestion on starting the raffle earlier in the evening.

There you have it. Next month, I'll review the final section of the survey, Shows & Banquet.

Carol Klonowski

Next Meeting: Monday, May 16, 2005
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:

⇒ **Debatable Epidendrums, Dr. Patricia Harding**

⇒ **Dividing Cymbidiums,
Heather Drobus, Top Hat Orchids**

⇒ **Species in Focus - Epidendrum ilense**

www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
