

Orchid Society of California

Next Meeting: Monday, September 19, 2005
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt
666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, California

PROGRAM TOPIC: "Tip of the Toothpick" Sue Fordyce

Fordyce orchid history dates all the way back to World War II, when Sue's father first began his orchid career, and he is still a very active member of the company today. Sue has had the benefit of "growing up in the business" and learning from her Dad, who with his 60+ years of experience is a renowned hybridizer of Cattleya orchids. Sue officially began her career in orchids 21 years ago and now manages Fordyce Orchids. She is involved in teaching seminars about orchid growing and speaks worldwide on the subject. She has an easy style of communication, and believes any hobby should be fun and only as complicated as you want it to be – even growing orchids. Her orchid lectures are much in demand because she is informative, easily understood and brings with her the passion of doing something she loves.

The world of orchids is a fascinating one to most anyone who loves flowers and plants. This world is constantly on display at "The Orchid Ranch". It is home to three separate orchid companies – Fordyce Orchids (Cattleyas), Orchids Orinda (Phalaenopsis), and Tonkin Orchids (Paphiopedilums). The Orchid Ranch is a sprawling five-acre compound with 28,000 square feet of greenhouse space located in Livermore, California. They are open to the public daily from 10 – 5 (except Monday) and are a wealth of information. The grower-owners themselves are always on hand to answer questions. Fordyce Orchids can be found on the web displaying a color catalogue and other orchid information. The address is www.fordyceorchids.com. The Ranch is located at 1330 Isabel Avenue in Livermore, and their phone number is (925) 447-1659. "Walk-ins" are always welcome, and short tours are available for groups of ten or more with one week notice. Strolling through the greenhouses is a treat you won't want to miss!

November Show Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, September 23rd at 7:00pm at 375 Warwick Avenue, San Leandro, California. Telephone # 510 635-2845. No one showed up at the first show meeting. If this time I don't have people show up; the board of directors will have to find a new show chair. Every member is invited to attend these meetings because it is the only way we can have a successful show. No matter

how long you have been a member please attend these meetings. Also all people that have Perpetual Trophies please return by the October meeting.

Thank you,
Francisco

September 2005

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
September in your Orchid Garden	3
Bay Area AOS Awards	4
Contact Us	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
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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

September – Helen Maas & Debbie Fong

October – Chris Marten & Sally Sommer

Dessert Assignments

Members with last names from “Uber” to “Zynx” are responsible for bringing refreshments to the September 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

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

October 22-23

Diablo View Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale. Saturday, 9AM. to 5PM, Sunday 10AM to 4PM.. The event will be at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA. Besides the beautiful array of blooming exotic orchids on display, there will be numerous vendors selling their plants. We will also have raffle plants, a plant doctor to offer advice and on both days, we will have potting and culture demonstrations at 10:00a.m., 12 noon and 2:00 p.m..
<http://www.diabloviewos.org/Shows/DVOS2005/Flier/show.htm>

November 5-6

D & D Flowers will have their Fall Inventory Reduction Sale 9AM to 3PM. There will be lots of masdevallia, cymbidium, oncidium and cattleya hybrid and species divisions at great prices. There will be lots of anthuriums also. Come for the company of friends, fun and food.

November 12-13

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>

San Francisco Orchid Fall Festival

The annual San Francisco Orchid Fall Festival will be held in the Hall of Flower, 9th Ave and Lincoln in San Francisco on Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 1st & 2nd. set up on Friday, Sept. 30th; during the show on Sat & Sunday and breakdown after 5PM Sunday. All gate proceeds, \$3.00/person, will be donated to scholarships, etc.

There will have 27 vendors from local, national and internationally know orchid nurseries. Need help to Paul Chim (510)635-3260

September in Your Orchid Garden

Matching Plants to Pots

The previous month's discussion of pot types and drainage focused on the rapidity with which the pot could dry. The size of the plant in the pot also has a dynamic effect on the rate of drying.

Plants that are large relative to the pot that they occupy generally produce an abundance of roots which fill much of the pot's volume and efficiently extract water from the medium. Plants that are too small for their pots frequently do not produce enough root to dry the medium quickly. This state of affairs often leads to the few roots rotting off, further reducing the drying of the interior of the pot. Just the opposite of most plants, the cardinal rule of orchid potting is never, ever, over-pot. If the choice is between a slightly smaller pot or a slightly larger pot, the smaller pot is always to be preferred. This choice might lead to more frequent re-potting but avoids the danger of rotting off roots in too soggy of a medium.

With sympodial orchids such as cattleyas, the rule of thumb is to place them in a pot which will allow two to three growths before the new bulbs reach the edge of the pot. Usually this quantity of growth will be accomplished within two years. The goal is to repot the plant into fresh medium every second or at most third year.

Plants can be repotted when they are completely dormant (usually right after flowering) or just as they are breaking new growth. Many growers soak plants for 20 minutes or so to soften the root's hold on the pot and allow them to be slipped out of their old container with ease. A flat bladed knife such as a butter knife or even better an oyster knife is of considerable assistance to this process.

If the plant has been grown in a durable medium like tree fern, rock or charcoal/wood chips, the entire root ball can be left undisturbed and the plant can be placed in its new larger pot with a minimum of disruption. New medium is then poured around the old root ball and the plant continues to grow unimpeded. Plants rooted into softer media like bark, peat-lite, or sphagnum will need to have as much of this old medium removed as possible. Media that is broken down must not be placed in the center of a new pot. Often this old medium can be shaken or teased off. Washing the roots under a gentle stream of water from a hose or faucet is also quite effective.

Usually growers find that the exposed roots that result from this cleaning can not be put into a new pot without

crushing them. Most orchidists trim such roots to an inch or inch and one half from the rhizome (the woody stem from which the bulbs arise) and allow them to re-grow into the new pot. This is much to be preferred over a pot half filled with crushed, dead roots, ready to rot and infect the new emerging ones.

Once cleaned the plant should be placed with its oldest bulb adjacent to the rear of the new pot which should allow enough space ahead of the newest bulb to accommodate two, three or, at most, four new bulbs to form in the space between the front bulb and the other edge of the pot. The rhizome should be in a plane slightly below the rim of the pot. Media is then shifted in around the plant's roots to a level just at or just below the rhizome. The rhizome itself should never be covered with medium as this can cause it to rot.

Finally, the plant should be staked firmly. Orchid plants that are allowed to wiggle in place whether in pots or mounted, are condemned to a slow but certain death. As the plant sends out new, tender root tips, these are broken off. The plant, after several unsuccessful attempts to produce new roots, exhausts its strength and slips into a slow, often irreversible decline. This unstable condition must be avoided by anchoring the plant however possible. The simplest device for a clay pot is a piece of galvanized wire cut to precisely the inside diameter of the pot and then wedged downward over the rhizome, locking the base of the plant in place. Some growers, worried that the wire will bruise the rhizome and lead to infection, slip a plastic straw over the wire. Our experience leads us to conclude this is unnecessary as the oxidizing zinc in the galvanized wire acts as a fungicide.

Various types of clips that attach to the pot rim are available or easily fabricated. If styro-foam has been used as 'drainage' a straight, galvanized stake is easily inserted directly to the bottom of the pot. Keep unruly foliage from spreading further than need be. This control also keeps the center of gravity of the plant nearer to the center of the pot, preventing tipping.

Most growers avoid watering newly set plants for a week or so to allow any bruises or cuts to heal. Newly repotted orchids should be carefully and thoroughly watered but allowed to properly dry between applications. After a few weeks they can be treated like all the rest of your plants.

AOS Awards

Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland, August 15, 2005

Cattleya loddigesii var. *harrisoniana* 'Street Wise'
Exhibited by: Japheth Ko
HCC 76 (prov)

Phalaenopsis Brother Sally Taylor 'Echo Valley'
(Phal. SuperStupid x Phal. Brother Purple)
Exhibited by: Echo Valley Orchids
HCC 79

Spathoglottis affinis 'Shining Star'
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn
HCC 75 (prov)

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

<http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

Relocation Sale - Sherwood Orchids

September 24-25, 2005, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm each
day Rob and Peggy Terry, of Sherwood Orchids, will
be liquidating the majority of their stock due to a
planned relocation out of state. We can only take a
part of our collection with us. Thus, hundreds and
hundreds of plants will be available!

We have paphs, phrags, miltonias, mini-cats and
other assorted genera. Plants will be available in a
variety of sizes, from flasks to blooming size divi-
sions. Our website, www.sherwoodorchids.com, has
a listing of the majority of our collection. All plants
will be at least 50% off the listed price.

We are located approximately 3 hours north of San
Francisco. To reach us, drive north on Hwy 101 to

Willits. At the 5th stoplight through town, which is
Sherwood Road, turn left up the hill. Drive 8 miles,
our driveway on the right hand side will be marked
with balloons, and the address is on the gatepost.
Carpool with some friends and make a day of it! Re-
freshments provided.

Looking forward to seeing you ---
Rob and Peggy Terry

31301 Sherwood Road
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 984-6387

Contact Us

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President's Message

It's September, and although the weather has been hot, my thoughts stray a little to the cooler end of the year when we will be having our annual November Show and awards banquet, and, after that, our December Potluck dinner where we announce the members of the new Board of Directors for the coming year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President for the past three years, but it is time for a change and so the office of President will be open for nominees to serve next year. Likewise, for various reasons, other members of the Board will also be leaving so we have quite a few openings to fill.

I am asking every one of you to consider yourselves or someone you know to serve on our Board of Directors and keep the society and its activities on course. To this end, I will briefly describe the duties of each officer, in the hope that everyone will realize that you don't need to be a financial wizard, computer guru, orchid professional, or any other specialty skill to help run the Orchid Society of California. All it takes is common sense, a commitment to meet monthly with the Board, and a willingness to learn the running of the society's activities. The more volunteers and filled positions the less work there is for any one person to do.

As President, you would run the general and Board meetings and act as representative for the Society. You would also coordinate the activities of the rest of the officers, such as Treasurer or Vice President, in order to make sure meetings go on as announced in the newsletter. The President also writes a monthly message in the newsletter.

Secretary is responsible for keeping minutes at the Board meetings and handling Society correspondence, communication with outside parties, and occasional record keeping, such as booking the Garden Center for meeting dates.

Regular Board of Directors members help decide on the society's activities by having a vote on the Board for any item requiring one. In addition, there are chair positions for Mother's Day show, the November show, the raffle table, and, if we can get

them, the culture session, SF exposition exhibit and Show & Tell table.

Membership Chair is automatically on the Board as a regular member, and takes in both new and renewal dues payments, updates our membership roster, and sends the newsletter out for mailing.

The newsletter needs a new editor going into the coming year. The editor gathers the Speaker information and monthly articles from other members, updates the Calendar for the coming issue, and sends the newsletter draft to Membership for mailing. There are also requests for ads and announcements to print. This position needs someone who can work with Adobe Acrobat Writer.

In past years it's been a Board member who has taken on two or more roles mentioned above. It is a heavy load for anyone, but if we get a different person for each position, no one position will be too much to handle for anyone.

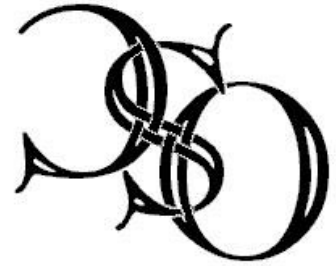
Again, none of these positions requires advanced college degrees or professional training, but they all have this in common: they are necessary to the running of this society and if no one volunteers or nominates someone who would serve, the activities of the Orchid Society of California will grind to a halt, or even worse, burn out the few people who do volunteer. Also, many of the things needing to be done require advance planning, and lack of a viable Board of Directors heading into the new year will effect the Mother's Day show and other important events, like our monthly meetings.

So, please think about it. Your society needs you, and the bulk of the Board and major Chair positions are vacant for next year. Let's get together and come up with a new slate of nominees and keep our society going for a long, long time.

Carol Klonowski

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Oakland, CA 94610

In this issue:

⇒ **Tip of the Toothpick - Sue Fordyce**

⇒ **November Show Meeting**

www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com
