



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

Neighborhood Community Center | 1845 Park Avenue | Costa Mesa, CA | 714-327-7525

October 2008

October Speaker

George Hatfield

"Orchid Nutrition"

We're in for a big treat this month as cymbidium expert and grower George Hatfield will be our speaker. He will be giving a new talk that he recently developed on "Orchid Nutrition. George has over 15 years of experience in raising award quality Cymbidium orchids and is the owner of Hatfield Orchids, located in which specializes in Pendulous & Upright Cymbidium seedlings. He is active in the Cymbidium Society America and the American Orchid Society, as well as several Southern California regional orchid organizations. A certified judge for both the CSA and AOS, and the current chairman of the Santa Barbara judging region for the CSA, George is also past-president of the CSA and was the Chairman of the CSA Cymbidium Congress from 1998-2001. In 2002-2003, he served as president of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Articles written by him have been published in the *American Orchid Society Awards Quarterly* and the *Cymbidium Society of America Journal*. George will share his experience and knowledge lecture and also provide a great raffle table.



Meetings are held on the
third Tuesday of each month

Culture Class at 7:00 p.m.
General Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

President's Message

We need some help. **Valerie Sanders** is still looking for help with the Judging Committee. Thanks to **Guy Gottschalk, Rick Wells, Greg Fryling and Joe Rupp** for stepping forward to staff the raffle table. They would like some occasional help in selling the raffle tickets. **Mary Kermani and Phil Duke** are looking for help with the Christmas Party. (Yes, it is time to think about it!)

If you have blooming plants to lend to the NHOS display at the Southland Show at the Huntington Gardens on October 17-19, see Jim Miller or Ha Bui.

A new marketing committee with **Denise Claycomb, Jim Miller and Guy Gottschalk** as members has been formed to sell advertising space to vendors with orchid related businesses. This is in an effort to help underwrite the expenses of the newsletter. Due to the lack of monetary return for our previous efforts, the Board of Directors is currently disposed to pass on a joint effort with Roger's Gardens next year. We have been invited back to the Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza, however.

Fascination of Orchids will not take place in the Winter 2009, reports Roberta Fox, NHOS member and Fascination of Orchids, Inc. Show Executive Committee member. The O.C. Fairgrounds will be doing renovations and will not be available. The independent organization that arranges Fascination is currently discussing a Fall 2009 show at the South Coast Village (north side of the Plaza) venue.

I thank our own **Winn Winmaw** for his presentation of his visit to Mount Popa, Myanmar (Burma). Due to the closed nature of the country, that is ruled by a military junta, the pictures were more than exotic—simply rare. The volcano, the monastery, the monkeys, the spiders

and the misty trees, were just wonderful. I was struck by the scarcity of blooming plants—very authentic. The jungle often keeps its secrets. Thanks, Winn.

The day came: the Greenhouse and Garden Tour came to my house. I was too busy to count but event organizers had 80 people signed up. Of course, few plants were in bloom and I am not a great grower anyway, but everybody was so polite and complementary, I was on a high the whole day. Any and all of you are certainly welcome back. My wife, Rosmarie, was impressed by our group. She is not especially an orchid-person but after being around such a friendly group, she is thinking about coming to the meetings.

Thanks also to **Merle and Georgette Robboy** and **Joe and Ann Rupp** for opening their homes and gardens to us. You were all dear and kind hosts. Thanks to **Jim Miller** and **Mary Kermani** for their organizational efforts.

All the best,

Tom Harrison

Culture Class: Orchids 101: Fertilizing Your Orchids

Chuck Spain will conduct this month's culture class and will discuss fertilizing orchids: everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask. A long-time orchid grower and former president of the Newport Harbor Orchid Society and the South Bay Orchid Society, Chuck is a certified Pest Control Advisor for the State of California.

Joyce Nugent
Culture Class Coordinator

Farewell “Ol Perfessor” Norman William Austin 1920-2008

An era in local orchid growing has come to an end, and sadly the doors of the College of Orchid Knowledge have officially closed with the passing of our dear friend and orchid mentor, Norman “Bill” Austin on September 10, 2008 at the age of 88.

As many of you will remember, Bill was founding dean and solo “perfessor” of the school where so many of us, his faithful students, listened eagerly each month to Bill’s words of wisdom on how to convince our orchids to flower. In place of a cap and gown, his teaching regalia included a pith helmet and an orchid apron.

Happily for Orange County orchid

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Orchids Aweigh is published monthly.
News deadline is the 25th of each month.
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NHOS Website: www.nhos.org
Web Designer: Marcie Hague
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Photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

enthusiasts, Bill was an active leader and organizer of many groups and events for over 25 years. He was president of five



orchid societies, including the NHOS from 1990-92. He and Joan, his wife of sixty years, were instrumental in bringing the Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale to South Coast Plaza’s Crystal Court and were very involved in many other local orchid shows.

He enjoyed performing for crowds and was never shy to take the microphone. Unless he had a morning meeting, he would spend 20 minutes playing the organ and then go out to the backyard to take care of his orchids. An avid music lover, he enjoyed music of all kinds—especially Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Glenn Miller, and Dave Brubeck, whom he knew when they lived in Northern California.

Bill was born and raised in Massachusetts, attended Bowdoin College where he majored in economics and played ice hockey. He spent WWII in the Navy and was assigned to duty on sub chasers and seagoing tugs. Professionally, he was a salesman, first selling mutual funds and then working for the Kendall Co. Curity Baby Products for 32 years. Throughout his life he was involved with the Boy Scouts, and Joan and he were charter members of the Orange Community Historical Society, and in 1998 received the William Glassell Award.

Several weeks before he passed, Bill stressed to his daughter, Wendy, that he wanted it said that “I did my job well to the end.” Indeed he did.

Our condolences to his daughter, Wendy, and son, Bill.



October Refreshments

For the March meeting, would members beginning with **Jim Miller** through **Espie Quinn** bring in tasty snacks to share. Thank you.

2009 AOS Calendars

It’s time to order your 2009 AOS Calendars. The deadline for ordering the calendars is Tuesday, October 21, which coincides with our monthly meeting. The plan is to distribute the calendars at the November meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting that evening or you can contact Nancy Benay at ndbenay@cox.net or 949 552-7713. The more we purchase as a group, the lower the price. And they do make great holiday gifts. The price for each calendar will be under \$12.00, but that will depend on the number ordered and shipping costs. We are collaborating on the order with Lico Orchids (Lisa Humphreys and Nico Goossens).

Incidentally, one of the plants to be featured in next year’s calendar is Judy and Dave Smith’s fabulous Epipendrum parkinsonianum ‘D&J Smith’, CCE/AOS. Another distinction for this awesome plant!!

Annual Greenhouse and Garden Tour

Hardly a year after moving to Fallbrook, Merle and Georgette are very well settled in with Merle's orchids thriving in the greenhouse, new exterior landscaping, not to mention the addition of Georgette's horse and their dog Teddy (Bear).

Tom Harrison's new greenhouse is an engineering feat as he moved tons of dirt and stone in his backyard before he could install the structure and then finished the landscaping with retaining walls, river rock, bamboo, tropical plants, and other charming touches.

Our final stop was at Joe and Ann Rupp's new home where we admired their two side-by-side greenhouses (his and hers??) that were just recently completed. We enjoyed a tasty lunch and lots of conviviality.

Good luck to Tom and to Joe and Ann as they learn to grow indoors. We'll look forward to a return visit to see the progress.

And, of course, orchids!



Georgette and Merle Robboy...

...and their greenhouse and shade area, one year after move-in.



Ann and Joe Rupp in their tropical backyard.



Lunch at the home of Ann and Joe Rupp: Lily Hara and Richard Hara and others.

September 27, 2008



Rosmarie and Tom Harrison.



New member Chris Garrod studying the plants in Tom Harrison's greenhouse.



At the home of Rosmarie and Tom Harrison: Kay Nebrig, Tom Harrison, Margaret Nerio and Lynn Wiand.

October Culture Checklist

Thanks to **Nico Goossens**, **Lynn Wiand**, and **Harold Koopowitz** for contributing the following cultural tips.

Watering, Fertilizing, and Greenhouse Maintenance

Nico Goossens

Fall presents some of the most diverse and unpredictable weather compared with the rest of the year. We can have dry, hot temperatures and at times stormy rains. When Santa Ana conditions present themselves, we could lose a whole year's efforts if we don't prevent the damage these dry, hot winds can do to our plants. Again, water your plants well, keep up the humidity, and keep the temperatures down as much as possible to prevent heat stress or burning. Also, do not fertilize during these conditions as the fertilizer salts can exaggerate the heat stress and burning effects. When you do fertilize use a weaker solution and possibly fertilize more often with this weaker solution. When it rains you can skip watering but remember that the air after a rain can be very dry, requiring you to keep the humidity up. Also these storms can be hot and humid similar to the tropics and thus necessitating good air flow to cool the plants.

As fall progresses, some growers increase their fertilizer quantities to boost flower production. This should be done gradually so as not to affect plant growth. Change your fertilizer formulas gradually or alternate the high bloom schedule with your regular formula schedule. I personally believe that if you extract the maximum possible growth and health in your orchids, they

should not have any problems blooming. I will sometimes boost my regular fertilizer formula with some added potassium and phosphorus without decreasing the nitrogen.

Thirdly, as winter approaches, it's time to prepare for the colder, wetter, and shorter days to come. With the anticipation of less active growth, I decrease my fertilizer schedule (and/or change the fertilizer formula). For those of you who grow in a greenhouse, now is the time to check and repair your heater so it will work properly when it comes time to use it. It is also time to plan for additional artificial lighting, or clean your greenhouse walls of dirt and algae. Remove the shade cloth to gain some additional light. This is a good time to clean up your growing area and plan for good hygiene in the winter, as rot pathogens do more damage during winter.

Warm growing plants such as *Phalaenopsis* must be brought in or protected earlier than intermediate growing plants. Yet, a good diurnal temperature drop is needed to initiate next year's flower spike in *Phalaenopsis*. So do not bring in or insulate your growing area before you can gain the benefit of the falls wider temperature ranges.

Cymbidiums

Lynn Wiand

This is a good time to clean-up your plants. Carefully remove any dried spikes, damaged leaves or other debris. Check for insects and snails and apply snail killer (*That's It* works well for me) and spray for bugs (I use *Bayer Rose and Flower Spray*) as necessary. Doing this now will prepare your plants for the shows ahead. Trying to clean up your blooming plants at the last

minute before a show usually causes a lot of damage to the new flowers and can cause broken spikes and a broken heart as well. Time permitting check your plants daily or frequently to make sure you continue to train flower spikes up their stakes..... plus you will be able to control any new bugs or snails before they become a problem.

Wear vinyl or latex gloves - a new pair for each plant! (They are inexpensive and can be purchased at drug stores or Costco). Be sure to sterilize your tools - a clean tool for each plant. (I use 50% Clorox and soak for a minimum of 1/2 hour - don't leave in overnight, as Clorox loves to 'eat' metal).

Vanda Growing Tip

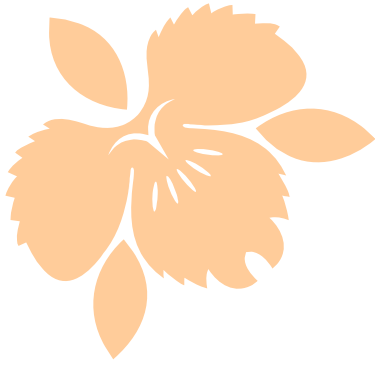
Harold Koopowitz

If you grow your vandaceous orchids in slotted baskets or vanda baskets, try hanging Spanish moss over the roots of your plants. This will help keep the roots moist and train them to grow down.



Flora from the Annual Greenhouse & Garden Tour

Flora from the Annual Greenhouse & Garden Tour



In Memoriam

After a long illness, Jim Arnold passed away on Friday, October 3. Our condolences go to Vera Arnold and their extended family.



September 2008 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTELEYA	Blc. Little Mike Lynn Wiand	C. Porcia Cannizaro Nancy Benay	Epi.difforme Lynn Wiand	Greg Fryling
CYMBIDIUM	Catasetum			Peter Yang
DENDROBIUM	Den. sanderae Lynn Wiand	Den. bracteosum Denise Claycomb	Den. torressae Denise Claycomb	Greg Fryling
MAXILLARIEAE	Max. schunkiana Lisa Humphreys	Cochleanthes discolor Nico Goossens	No Entry	B. Livingston
ONCIDIUM	Miltonia Dick Hess	Miltonia Earl & Joyce Hafe	Tolumnia Nico Gossens	Gerda Hayes
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Paph. parishii Lynn Wiand	Paph. lichianum Dorothy Goldberg	Paph. Snow Squall Dorothy Goldberg	Judy Smith
PHALAENOPSIS	Rhynchostylis ret. Alba Lisa Humphrey	Phalaenopsis Lynn Wiand	Dtts Hurricane Season Rick Wells	M. Bauer
PLEUROTHALLID	Restrepia trichoglossen Lynn Wiand	Coulda Woulda Shoulda	Could have won here	B. Livingston
VANDA	V. tricolor Kayoko Nebrig	Christensonia vietnamica Winn & Chitsaya	Cleisocentron merillia Lynn Wiand	Nancy Benay
MISCELLANEOUS	Bulb. Jersey Denise Claycomb	Coelogyne pandurata Denise Claycomb	Coelia macroslachia Roberta Fox	Joe Rupp
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Mendruhau Sam Hall	Zygo "Pretty Ann" Joyce Nugent	Epi. Joyce Nugent	Judy Smith
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Epi. diffusum	Denise Claycomb		

Will the owner of the catasetum judged by Peter Yang please contact Valerie Sanders at (714) 847-9852 ASAP to claim ownership of this plant! Thank you.



Mark Your Calendars...

New Meeting Location for the Orange County Branch, Cymbidium Society of America

Beginning October 8, the monthly meetings will take place at the Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 East Center St., Anaheim, CA 92805.

Friday, October 17—Sunday, October 19

Southland Orchid Show, Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA 91108. This year's theme, Harvest Moon Orchid Festival, honors the grand opening of the Chinese Gardens. <http://www.southlandorchids.org/Southland/Show.htm>

Saturday, October 25—Sunday, October 26

San Diego County Orchid Society Fall Show in the Park. Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Room 101. Free admission. Saturday hours: 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. www.sdorchids.com.

Monday, October 27

South Coast Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Auction. Whaley Park Clubhouse, 5620 Atherton St., Long Beach, CA. www.southcoastorchidsociety.com.

Saturday, November 1— Sunday, November 2, 2008

48th Annual Fall Open House and Sale, Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Open house at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. The Fall open house showcases two of the great orchid species: *Cymbidium tracyanum* and *Laelia anceps*. Other Mexican *Laelias*, *Laelia* hybrids, fragrant *Zygopetalum mackayii*, and *Oncidiums*, will also be in spike and bloom. View plants offered on our 2008 Silent Auction. Saturday hours: 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.; Sunday hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. www.sborchid.com.



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Address Update Requested