



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

November 2008

President's Message

Congratulations to **Ha Bui** on his personal win in the Vanda group at the Southland Show at the Huntington Gardens. Thanks to Ha and his team: **Denise Claycomb, Phil Duke, Jim Miller, Michael Miranda, and Rick and Arlene Wells**, for their time and plants. The Society is proud of the three well deserved awards gained at the Southland Show that this team made possible. Many other people in the Society lent plants. Thanks to all of you; it takes a society to put on a show.

I have been getting a lot of botany lately, and I am currently reading *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon. It is a relatively easy intro to a number of scientific concepts and vocabulary words.

Chapter 8, "The Uptake and Use of Water, Minerals and Light," looks like it could have been the basis for our latest speaker, George Hatfield's, talk. George normally talks about cymbidiums, but this time he did a more generalized culture lecture stressing that a high pH of the water, much above 8, is going to inhibit the uptake of nutrients by the plant.

Tropical orchids mostly enjoy rainwater in their native environments (neutral to slightly acidic pH). Our southern California water comes via aqueduct and is high in dissolved salts. It is hard (high pH). If you want your plants to thrive treat the water (maybe by reverse osmosis) or at least flood out the salts with very thorough watering (just not too often).

Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month

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

The bottom line is that bad water will prevent the fertilizer from working. For pest control, George recommended Triazicide by Spectracide (wear a mask when applying the product) in addition to Ultrafine, an oil based poison, for scale.

I was reading the October/November/December 2008 issue of *Orchid Digest* and discovered a great website on the last page. I am very fond of encyclopaedia and laelia species and www.geocities.com/cattleyasource/ is a good resource for general Cattleya type orchids.

Please contact **Mary Kermani**. She is going to need help with the Christmas Party.

Good growing to you,

Tom Harrison
President

November Speaker Ron Parsons

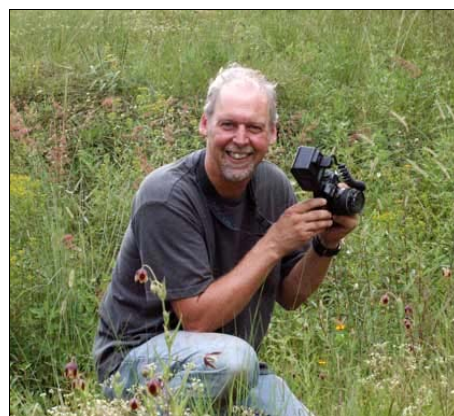
"Rarities and Oddities (Rare and Unusual Orchid species)"

We have another great program for the November meeting. Our speaker will be Ron Parsons, who is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. For his first visit to the NHOS he will give a talk entitled "Rarities and Oddities (Rare and Unusual Orchid species)." Ron's photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. A resident of the San Francisco area when he is not traveling to exotic places, Ron has been growing orchids for over 30 years and photographing them for over 24 years.

No Culture Class in November!

He has an extensive collection of over 80,000 slides of orchid species in and out of the wild. Ron has nineteen different orchid programs so selecting the program was a tough choice.

I first met Ron in March 2006 when he spoke to the San Diego County Orchid Society on Masdevallias. This was shortly after his book, *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World*, was published by Timber Press. Ron did all the photography for the book, and Mary E. Garritsen did the writing. They have also published a second book, *Calochortus*



Mariposa Lilies & Their Relatives. In addition, Ron's photography has been featured in the *Orchid Digest*, *Orchids Magazine* and the *Australian Orchid Review*, newspapers and advertisements. Ron is also interested in California wildflowers, cacti and succulents and has talks for these also.

Golden Gate Orchids, an outstanding wholesale orchid nursery in San Francisco will provide the plant table. Another excellent meeting you will not want to miss!

Denise Claycomb
First Vice-President

Culture Corner

Rupicolous Laelias

Editor's Note: Tom Biggart of Granite Hills Orchids shares his potting mix recipe for rupicolous laelias that are native to Brazil.

These compact growing plants produce very colorful flowers making them well worth growing. They will do well in Southern California provided you know the plants unique cultural needs, meaning lots and lots of light to flower. While they will do okay under normal cattleya conditions, convincing them to flower will be difficult.

In nature, they are found on rock outcrops in full sun with nothing more than grasses and detritus to protect the plants, and nightly mist as the main

source of moisture. Place them in a sunny location in your shade area and do not over-water.

Tom's recipe: Try to use small clay pots. In warm weather in clay they can be watered every day. This seems to plump up the plants and causes them to send out multiple growths. OK, fill 1/3 of the pot with gravel. I use granite pea gravel, which is about 3/8 to 1/2 inches in diameter. On top of that, put a 1/2 inch-layer of wet sphagnum moss. Then, plant the plant above that in a mixture of 50-50 potting soil and sand.

I bought a bag of general purpose sand from Home Depot, but if you live near a river, some river sand would work great and you'd get more of a variation in sand size which will look great and the plants should respond. Though I use this mix mainly for species rupicolous laelias, hybrids will do well in it, as well.

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Orchid photos courtesy of Ha Bui.

November Refreshments

For the November meeting, would members beginning with **Jack Reihing** and **Richard Wulff** and ending with **Arlene and Rick Wells** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

Membership Corner

Hope you are all enjoying your new, bigger roster. You will notice on the very last page there is room for new additions to our member ship. Please add:

Elizabeth Hau

2418 Windward Lane, Newport Beach
92660-3718

949-642-0665 (Fax # same)

Ron and Lynda Wisecup

30882 Driftwood Dr.

Laguna Beach, 92651

949-499-4988

We are pleased to welcome two new members:

Russ and Susan Nichols

5728 Madrid Lane

Long Beach, CA 90814

562-498-2751

russellanichols@verizon.net

At our October meeting, we also had two visitors—Victoria Pilapil and Brianna, her daughter. They are from Ontario, CA, and we hope they enjoyed George Hatfield and the rest of us!

Laura Perry

Membership Chairman



In Memoriam

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Georgia Farmer's husband, Frank, on Friday, October 3. Our condolences to Georgia. We hope to see you soon at our meetings and events.

AOS Web Site Update

If you haven't been to the American Orchid Society website—www.aos.org—lately, check it out. The website is offering timely articles such as how Hurricane Ike has affected members in the Galveston and Houston area. Maybe you have an article, or know of someone with an article, that would be suitable for the website. The new AOS Web Committee is putting material up and they invite interested parties to submit articles. See the attached guidelines and mail any articles to Sandra Svoboda, Chair AOS Web Committee at stil-lisch@earthlink.net.

Thanks, Affiliated Societies Committee,
Newsletter Editor Task Force

NHOS Display at the Southland Show



**Award
Winning
Display**



**Ha Bui and
award winning
crew: Denise
Claycomb, Phil
Duke, Jim Miller,
Michael Miranda,
and Rick and
Arlene Wells.**

October 2008 Judging Results

GENUS POINTS	FIRST PLACE 5 pts	SECOND PLACE 3 pts	THIRD PLACE 1 pt	JUDGES
CATLEYA	C. Portia 'Coerulea' Jack Kittrell	LC Robin Blue Major Sharon Pyatt	BC Walt Belleville Dave & Judy Smith	G. Gottschalk
CYMBIDIUM	Cym. dayanum Lynn. Wiand	Catasetum sanguineum X Catasetum expansum D & J Smith	Cym. tracyanum x dayanum Barbara Livingston	M. Robboy
DENDROBIUM	Den. Doctor Poyck Dorothy Goldberg	Den. polysema Denise Claycomb	Den. oligophyllum Denise Claycomb	Dave Smith
MAXILLARIEAE	Xylobium squalens Denise Claycomb	Zygo. Redvale 'Fire Kiss' (D. Claycomb)	Zygo. 'Imagination' Earl & Joyce Hare	Win Winmaw
ONCIDIUM	Onc. cavendishianum R & L Hara	Odontobrasia Kenneth Bivens Dorothy Goldberg	Beallara Marfitch 'Howards Dream' Dorothy Goldberg	Dave Smith
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phrag. Intis Tears D. Claycomb	Paph. charlesworthii Win Winmaw	Paph. (cross) Lynn Wiand	Judy Smith
PHALAENOPSIS	Rhynchostylis coelistis W. Winmaw	Phal. Spotted Leopard K. Nebrig	Rhynchostylis Merle Robboy	G. Gottchalk
PLEUROTHALLID	Pleurothallis Roberta Fox	No Winner here	No entry	Judy Smith
VANDA	Aerangis articulata Denise Claycomb	Ascocenda Michael Miranda	Trichoglottis philippinensis Denise Claycomb	Ha Bui
MISCELLANEOUS	Robequetia cerina Kay Nebrig	Bulbo Doris Dukes Denise Claycomb	Bulbo burfordiense Denise Claycomb	Lynn Wiand
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Miltassia Olmec Joyce Nugent	Zygo. Redvale Joyce Nugent	Epi. Molnina Star Joyce Nugent	Dave Smith
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	C. Portia 'Coerulea' Owner: Jack Kittrell			George Hatfield



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday and Sunday, November 22-23, 2008

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sunday. Enjoy a spectacular show of *Laelia anceps*, *Cymbidium tracyanum*, and many other fall bloomers. Select vendors. Admission to the museum is \$10; Seniors, \$8. For more information check out www.orchidsb.net.

Saturday and Sunday, December 6-7, 2008

Open Houses at San Diego area growers:

- Sunset Valley Orchids Open House, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. 1255 Havel Place, Vista, CA 92083. (760) 310-0778. www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/.
- Casa de las Orquideas Open House, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075. Phone and fax (858) 755-7572. Other vendors include the Rowland Collection, Islander Delights, and Andy's Orchids.

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Annual NHOS Holiday Potluck. Watch for details in the December newsletter.

Saturday, January 31, 2009

San Diego County Cymbidium Society Orchid Auction. Carlsbad Woman's Club. Preview of orchids 11:00 a.m. Bidding begins at 12:00 noon. All types of orchids! Contact: Phyllis Prestia orchldy2@mac.com or 760-732-0055.



Nancy Benay
2 Allegheny
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Address Update Requested