



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

December 2008

President's Message

Congratulations to **Lily and Richard Hara!** At the November Board of Directors meeting they were voted "life members." No, this is an honor and not a punishment for their countless hours of service to the Society and the orchid world. Thanks for all you do, Lily and Richard.

I am well over-full now that Thanksgiving is past, but Christmas is looming. Two things; one, please call **Mary Kermani** or **Phil Duke**, if you are interested in helping with the holiday potluck. We definitely need help. Two, we strongly urge you to bring the orchid or related item for the plant exchange.

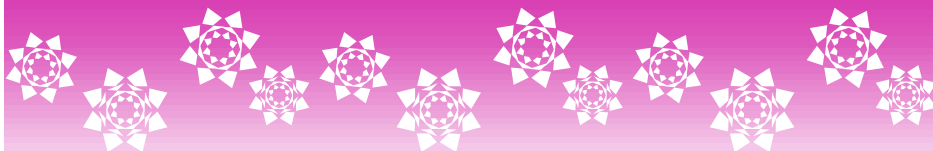
What appears to be the first serious rains have come. The greenhouse and I were almost ready for them. I have a heater for the cold. I finished running the water line and installed an RO unit to purify the water. I did not have the sump pump hooked up, however. The water in the greenhouse pit almost flooded. I was very lucky. The morning of the day after the rain, I hooked up the sump pump first thing – water gone, situation OK. For that I give thanks.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year,

Tom Harrison
President

Meetings are held on the
third Tuesday of each month

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



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Join your fellow members for the **NHOS Annual Holiday Party!**

In the tradition of the season, the NHOS will hold its Annual Holiday Potluck at the December 16th meeting. There will no culture class and speaker presentation that evening, but there will be plenty of great food, a plant exchange and lots of conviviality. Phil Duke, chef extraordinaire, will prepare a turkey and ham as the main course for the dinner.

Members are asked to bring a dish that will serve 10-12 people.

Categories by last name are:

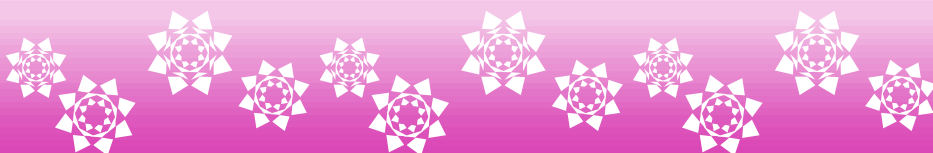
A-G Side Dish
H-M Appetizer
N-Z Dessert

Drinks and appetizers at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

If you wish to help set up, please come at 6:00 p.m.

We are having our orchid gift exchange again this year and hope that everyone or at least ever couple will bring an orchid plant or orchid related item (not wrapped). As in previous years your name will be put on the gift when you come in, when your gift is picked your name will be called and you will then pick next one and so on. The more people who participate the more fun it is.

We are looking forward to a lot of fun and holiday cheer for this special evening, and hope all members will join us. Thanks to Phil and Mary Kermani for organizing the event.



Culture Corner

Editor's Note: Written by Harry Zelenko for the October 2008 issue of *Orchids*

If you like to grow your orchids mounted, you may want to try a new material that was developed by Mikael Karbom, a Swedish industrial designer and an orchid grower who has solved a meaningful problem for growers around the world: how to mount an orchid so it grows better than in nature. It's called EpiWeb; it's made primarily from recycled PET—soft drink bottles.

What makes it a practical method of mounting plants is that the roots not only attach to the surface, but they also grow into the material, in turn, holding the plant in place. The material can also be formed to make baskets, branches and other devices for growing orchids. EpiWeb also comes chopped into ½ inch (1.25 cm) cubes that can be used in pots.

For cattleyas and other plants, a rhizome clip is not needed as the material will, with gentle pressure, hold a plant



steady and upright. EpiWeb is light in weight but porous, and when soaked, water constitutes more than 70 percent of the weight of a slab. Air still reaches the roots when they penetrate the material, helping to create a microclimate for perfect growing conditions; the roots receive the oxygen and moisture they need. Fertilizer salts, over time, build up on tree fern, requiring the eventual removal of the plant, at which time the roots usually get ruined. But this new material can be easily flushed to remove fertilizer salts and other chemicals.

The material holds water well, but because it is porous, depending on the environment and the amount of humidity, in a dry climate, it might be necessary to water plants more often than with other media. EpiWeb can hold moisture for up to 48 hours. With EpiWeb, the roots grow into the material.

EpiWeb protects the roots that grow internally. In the event that roots grow through to the back of the substrate, another piece can be easily attached to protect the roots and allow them to continue growing. Because of its texture, the material seems to have a repellent effect on snails and slugs. It is pH neutral and 100 percent toxic-free and made mostly from recycled plastic (70 percent) that will not decompose and keep itself free from harmful substances. For more information and to purchase go to: www.firststrays.com/epiweb.htm.



Membership Corner

Welcome to new member Andy Huang; please add his name and address to your roster: Andy Huang | 3 Night Bloom | Irvine, CA 92602 | latsyrc18940@yahoo.com.

Happy Holidays to all,

Laura Perry
Membership Secretary

Orchid Trivia from Bella Online

World's Most Diverse Plant Family

Orchids make up the world's most diverse plant family with the number of species estimated to be between 30,000 and 40,000 in over 800 genera. Almost every month new species are found and documented and very often they are found to be a completely new genus.

World's Smallest Orchid

The smallest orchid is *Platystele jungermannioides* which has flowers only half a millimeter or one-hundredth of an inch in diameter. The entire plant is only about a quarter of an inch or half a centimeter tall. They grow naturally in the cloud forests in Central America, principally in Costa Rica. The flower, when viewed through a magnifying glass, is a pale greenish color with a purple lip.

World's Worst Smelling Orchid

The worst smelling orchid is *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*. Many other *Bulbophyllums* produce the same carrion scent as this one, but are much smaller. Native to New Guinea, the pollinator is a fly which is attracted by the unpleasant odor.

Officers 2008-09

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Tom Harrison

First Vice President

Denise Claycomb

Second Vice President

Joe Rupp

Corporate Secretary

Margaret Nerio

Membership

Laura Perry

Treasurer

Richard Hara

Ex-Officio

Jim Miller

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Ha Bui

Tina Coombe

Phil Duke

Guy Gottschalk

Linda Ianelli

Nahid Khonsari

Michael Miranda

Rick Wells

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Cultural Award Winner ~ November 2008

Laelia Superbiens | Grower: Jack Kittrell



November 2008 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Laelia superbiens Jack Kittrell	Blc. Blue Hawaii "New Horizon" Ha Bui	Blc. Chia Lin "New City" Kay Firebaugh	Winn Winmaw
CYMBIDIUM	Cym. No name Michael Miranda	Cym. Copper Pot Barb. Livingston	Cym. hybrid Lynn Wiand	Lily Hara
DENDROBIUM	Den. New Dr. Poyck Dorothy Goldberg	No entry	No entry	W. Winmaw
MAXILLARIEAE	Zygo Adelaide Meadows x greenways Barb. Livingston	Zygo. B.G. White "Stonehurst" Merle Robboy	Coulda, woulda, shoulda	Lynn Wiand
ONCIDIUM	Onc. Volcano Queen	Cischweinfia horichii	Brsdm. Shooting Star x Dark Star Joe Rupp	Lily Hara
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Kay Firebaugh Paph. No name Kayoko Nebrig	Denise Claycomb Paph Melanthus Lynn Wiand	Paph. gratixianum Lynn Wiand	Bob Latimer
PHALAENOPSIS	Where have all the Phallies gone?	Phal. Convention??	Phal. Vacation month?	
PLEUROTHALLID	Platystele ortiziana Denise Claycomb	Stenoglottis longifolia Denise Claycomb	Stenoglottis longifolia Barb. Livingston	Nancy Benay
VANDA	Asocenda Hybrid Michael Miranda	Darwinara Charm—Blue Pacific Ha Bui	Angraecum leonis Merle Robboy	Greg Fryling
MISCELLANEOUS	Cirr. Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry Denise Claycomb	Bulbo. longissimum Xbulbo rothchildiae Greg Fryling	Isabella virginalis Lynn Wiand	Barbara Livingston
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Onc. No name Mary Kermani	Cym. Autumn Green 'Geyserland' David Smith	No entry	Barbara Livingston
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Laelia superbiens Jack Kittrell			



Mark Your Calendars...

Tuesday, December 16: NHOS Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner. Information on page one.

Wednesday, January 21, 2009: Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction, 7:00 p.m., Yorba Linda Library.
For more information: Rosa Laursen, (714) 528-7003 or ocosauktion@roadrunner.com.

Saturday, January 31, 2009: San Diego County Cymbidium Society Annual Orchid Auction 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
[Carlsbad Women's Club](#) Preview: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon; Call (760) 732-0055 for more information.

Saturday, March 7-Sunday, March 8, 2009: South Bay Orchid Society Show, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA. Contact: Marla Corey, 1958 W. Summerland, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; (310) 833-1918; marlacorey@sbcglobe.net.

Thursday, March 5-Sunday, March 8, 2009: [San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exposition](#), Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA. Contact: For Information; (415) 665-2468.

Friday, March 13-Sunday, March 15, 2009: San Diego County Orchid Society Show, Scottish Rite Temple, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA. Contact: Betty Kelepecz, 1220 Rosecrans St. #960, San Diego, CA. 92075-2021; (858) 755-7572; bettypk@aol.com.

Friday, March 20-Sunday, March 22, 2009: 63rd Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. [Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara](#)



Nancy Benay
2 Alleghany
Irvine, CA 92620



Address Update Requested