



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

April 2008

The Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza

Our Society has been trying to obtain a vendor spot for years at the Spring Garden Show; thanks to the extra efforts of Tom Harrison, we have finally succeeded.

Our Society will be distributing literature to promote Orchid Conservation as well as culture sheets and membership information for the American Orchid Society, Orchid Digest and the Newport Harbor Orchid Society. We will also be selling orchid plants, arrangements and supplies to raise additional money for our treasury. There will not be member plant sales at this event.



The show will be held at South Coast Plaza April 24-27. The show hours are 10:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday; 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Saturday; and 11:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sunday. Set up will be 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. on Thursday, and teardown is Sunday after 6:30 p.m.

This is a new venture for us, and we need volunteers to help staff the table for four days. If you can help, please contact me at jim_miller100@hotmail.com. This is a great venue and there will be a large variety of vendors there.

—Jim Miller

President's Message

MORE WATER LONGER! That much I remember about how to grow bulbophyllums from Bill Thoms' talk at the meeting in March. WAFL-HS was the acronym that he used in his lesson. Here are some of the highlights. Water: Put pots or mounts in shallow trays of water. Air: Good circulation is necessary. Food: Most any food will do, weakly weekly. Light: Most bulbophyllums take high light, if they don't get too hot. Otherwise use shade. House: Use sphagnum moss. Sickness: Try neem oil

(bugs), cinnamon powder (rot), rubbing alcohol (scale), bait (slugs). Spray when it's cool. Now if I could just get the greenhouse up so that I could have the warm environment to grow the bulbos in.

The General Meeting did pass the \$5 fee for the US Mail copy of the NHOS Newsletter. It takes affect in July.

If you intend to display plants or sell plants at the Roger's Garden event, Orchid-stration, you need to get your plants to Ha Bui by Friday, April 4, no later than noon. I encourage everyone to come and take a look a Roger's that weekend. We need your support.

See you soon,

Tom Harrison

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month

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

April Culture Class

Repotting season is here! NHOS member and master cymbidium grower, **Ha Bui**, will teach us how to transplant cymbidiums properly. This will be a great class for all growers, beginning to advanced.

April Speaker

Weyman Bussey

"50 Showy Mexican Species, Where They Come from and How They Grow"

Our speaker at the April 15th meeting is Weyman Bussey. Born in Germany and raised in Florida, Weyman collected his first orchid in the Big Cypress swamps at the age of 12, and to date orchids have been his hobby, profession, and passion.

He graduated from the University of Florida in 1976, where he majored in Botany and Ornamental Horticulture.

In 1980 he moved to Mexico where he lived and worked in the flower industry for twenty-three years. Upon his return to the U.S., Weyman and his family moved to



Mission, TX, where they established a small nursery, called Abundaflora, to distribute his plants from Mexico.

Currently, he is working with Barbara Rudvalis at Rudvalis Orchids in Carlsbad. Weyman is frequently invited to speak to societies on Mexican orchids and tropical orchid growing. For more information, visit <http://www.abundaflora.com/speaker.htm>.

Member Spotlight

Judy and Dave Smith's Orchid Paradise

How best to describe Judy and Dave Smith's orchid houses and garden without gushing and invoking a string of superlatives? Simply put, it is an orchid paradise that pays homage to lots of hard work, discipline, meticulous and consistent care, creativity, and vision, not necessarily in that order. Totally overwhelmed, I sat on their covered patio gazing at this visual feast and wondering if I could properly convey my awe.

The Smiths began growing orchids about fifteen years ago, which was to be a new hobby following back surgery for Dave. Gone were his surfing days! At first, like most of us, they bought a little bit of everything, but after some careful research by Dave, they decided to focus on growing what does well in Orange County's inland areas: cymbidiums ("old, old fa-

vorites"), cattleyas, Australian dendrobiums, lycastes, Mexican species (now dispersed to other collections as they grow too big!) and a handful of others.



Their backyard is rimmed with three large shade houses (the lathe house is 12'x12' and both the shade houses are 15'x10' each), one devoted to cymbidiums and a few cooler growers such as masdevallias and intergeneric oncidium hybrids, and two very colorful Asian inspired structures where their dendrobiums, lycastes and cattleyas thrive. Judy's artistic ability adds an aesthetic and humorous touch. There are no plant benches, not a one; all of their plants hang, so you find yourself looking at the plants at eye level or from below, if you happen to be vertically challenged like myself. The plants are carefully spaced allowing for lots of air movement and light to flow around the pots. 60% shade cloth and plexiglass cover the structures.

They purposely keep their collection "small" at about 350 plants; other than their numbers, there is nothing small about the Smiths' specimen sized plants. A few years ago they converted to DI water hooked up to two dositrans, one for light feeding and the second for heavy feeding, so they now water and fertilize at the same time, accomplishing all of this in two to three hours. They use Dynagrow, but emphasize that the brand is less important than a regular feeding regimen. When it comes to media, the Smiths have an inventive twist. Besides the standard fir bark mix, they have some of their plants growing in very large pieces of pure charcoal and others are in a mixture of pumice rock, all doing very well.

After Dave's retirement three years ago, and with much encouragement from Ginny Worthington, they began to submit plants for AOS judging. In a very short time, their plants have won 22 certificates and two very prestigious national prizes: the Benjamin C. Berliner Award for the best Lycaste and the Butterworth Prize, which is granted annually by the AOS trustees to the grower of the plant exhibiting the finest orchid culture and awarded a Certificate of Cultural Merit or a Certificate of Cultural Excellence the preceding calendar year. The latter was for their incredible *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*. If there were an award for a growing area, they would win that as well.

Judy and Dave are happy to have NHOS members visit individually or in very small groups, so if you are new to orchid growing or are designing an outdoor growing area, consider visiting them, as you will come away with lots of ideas and a better understanding of good orchid culture.

Thanks Judy and Dave for an unforgettable afternoon.

Nancy Benay, Co-editor, *Orchids Aweigh*

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

OrchidWiz at 50 % Off

Through April 30, 2008 OrchidWiz, is offering discounts up to 50% on group purchases of OrchidWiz Encyclopaedia 4.03. This is the most complete and accurate orchid research software. It's fully up-to-date through March 2008 with the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Sander's hybrid registrations and American Orchid Society's (AOS) awards. We need ten people to receive a 50% discount (\$124.50 per person) or five people for a 40% discount (\$149 per person), plus shipping. Each license allows one user to install the program on two computers. If you are interested contact Nancy Benay at ndbenay@cox.net or at 949-552-7713.

April Refreshments

Would members beginning with **David Smith** through **Peter and Miko Yang** bring in tasty snacks to share. Thank you.

Greetings to All NHOS Members!!

As you know, our favorite fundraising event, the Annual Auction will be held during our regularly scheduled May meeting place and time: 3rd Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 6:30 p.m., at the Costa Mesa Community Center. For anyone who has never attended, please reconsider, as this is one energy-filled, action-packed event!

This is a time for all of us to gather round and support this important event. As you know, proceeds will go to further the enjoyment, education, and cultivation of the grandest of all plants, our Orchids! Your presence is welcomed, as help is needed in all areas of the auction including set up, runners, collections, organization, delivery, and tear down. Those of you wanting bargains, this is the place to be, especially toward the end of the auction when we have to close down the room and plants are practically given away at that point!! Bring your best friend, relative, neighbor, or anyone, and you will receive a raffle ticket for a fabulous gift drawing.

If you want to help and/or if you have any questions call Joe Rupp at 949-675-0291 or Valerie at 714-325-0148.

Ribbon Judging Apprentice Needed

Join Valerie Sanders, Ribbon Judging Chairperson, for the next few months and learn all about Ribbon Judging! This is a great (and fun) opportunity to experience yet another function in the NHOS; and, you get to work with other great members in the Society. You will be ready to take over beginning at the August NHOS Meeting. And Valerie will still be around to answer questions and help out from August forward!

Advertising Rep Needed

Be the NHOS Advertising Representative and announce our Society's Monthly Meeting to the *OC Register* and the *LA Times*! It's an easy job (only takes about 10 minutes each month), but you will need a computer to send in the announcements. Responsibility starts August 1, 2008.

Interested in either job? Contact Valerie Sanders at 714-325-0148.

Condolences

Our sincerest condolences to Vera Arnold and her family. Vera's father passed way on March 25th. He resided in the Czech Republic.

Get Well Wishes...

Deb Munson is doing well after knee surgery, and we look forward to seeing her very soon.

March 2008 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Epidendrum bifalce Lynn Wiand	Laelia harpophyllum Denise Claycomb	LC Meadow Gold Kayoko Nebrig	Dave Smith
CYMBIDIUM	Catasetum barbatum Merle Robboy	Cym. goeringii Lynn Wiand	Cym. Any Warhol 'Gordo' Kayoko Nebrig	Lily Hara
DENDROBIUM	Dend. delicatum W & C Winmaw	Dend. spectabile Denise Claycomb	Dend. aphyllum Denise Claycomb	Dave Smith
MAXILLARIEAE	Maxillaria densa. Lynn Wiand	Maxillaria variabilis Merle Robboy		Nancy Benay
ONCIDIUM	Trichopilia suavis Don Dier	Comparettia macroplectron Denise Claycomb	Cochlioda oetzliana Rick Wells	Lily Hara
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phrag. calurum Joe Rupp	Paph. armeniacum Ron Dier	Paph. primulinum Denise Claycomb	Kayoko Nebrig
PHALAENOPSIS	Phal. Tequila Sunrise Joe Rupp	Phal. Champion Princess H. & Janelle Schuck	Phal. Doritaenopsis Darrelyn Wood	Bob Latimer
PLEUROTHALLID	Pleurothallis teaguei Ron Dier	Restrepia cuprea Nancy Benay	Restrepia lansbergui Nancy Benay	Elizabeth Kishaba
VANDA	Microterangis hildebrandtii Denise Claycomb	Aerangis citrate Denise Claycomb	Trichoglottis bipunctata Merle Robboy	Kayoko Nebrig
MISCELLANEOUS	Bulbophyllum grandiflorum Merle Robboy	Coelogyne flaccida Laura Perry	No entry	Judy Smith
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Cym. Dorothy Rowe x Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron' Earl & Joyce Hare	Phal. Star Passat Joyce Nugent	Cym. Tom Thumb 'Pet' Joyce Nugent	Barbara Livingston
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points		Pleuro teaguui Ron Dier		Bill Thoms

Mark Your Calendars...

Friday, April 4-Sunday, April 6, 2008: San Diego County Orchid Society Show, “Orchid Opulence.” Scottish Rite Temple, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA. Hours: Friday, April 4, 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 5, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, April 6, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information go to www.sdorchids.com or contact Steve at (619) 405-0412. General admission: \$6.00.

Saturday, April 5-Sunday, April 6: NHOS Spring “Orchid-Stration” Show and Sale, Roger’s Gardens.

Thursday, April 24-Sunday April 27, 2008: 19th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show, Crate and Barrel/Macy’s Home Store Wing, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626. The NHOS will have a sales booth at the show. No admission fee.

Saturday, April 25-Sunday, April 26, 2008: Orchids at the Flower Fields. 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. General Admission: \$9.00.

Tuesday, May 20, 2008: Newport Harbor Orchid Society’s Annual Ron Capps Memorial Auction. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.; auction will begin at 7:00 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Deb Munson
5 Crosscreek
Irvine, CA 92604



Address Update Requested