



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

May 2008

Going once, going twice ... Sold to Bidder #...

NHOS Annual Auction on Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Our annual auction will take place at our May 20th meeting.

We'll have some very exciting plants available, including Cym. 'Little Black Sambo' that **Dave and Judy Smith** have generously provided. **Ha Bui** is also donating one of his treasures, and we expect some fine blooming plants from quality Southern California growers.

Dr. Merle Robboy will put to use his encyclopedic knowledge of orchids, his humor, and his talents as an auctioneer that evening.

Please bring plants to donate (by 6:30 p.m., so we can register them), bring a friend, enjoy the evening and help support the society. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the auction will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Tasty refreshments will be available for those of you coming directly from work.

Joe Rupp
Second Vice-President
Chair, Auction Committee

Meetings are held on the
third Tuesday of each month

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

No Culture Class in May— It's Auction Time Again!

Sixth Orchid Digest Speaker's Day

One of Southern California's premiere orchid events is the annual Distinguished Speaker's Day sponsored by the *Orchid Digest*. This year's event takes place on Saturday, June 14, 2008, noon-8:00 p.m., and will feature an all genera flower display, orchid sales, expert lectures, and a delightful dinner. The theme is "Those Marvelous Miniature Orchids."

It's really a mini orchid conference (no pun intended) that allows us to hear a super selection of internationally known orchid experts right in our own backyard. The keynote speaker will be Henry Oakley, British orchid expert. There will also be culturally oriented talks by Walter Teague, California, Marc Hachadourian, New York Botanical Gardens, Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids, and Lynn O'Shaughnessy, the Pleurothallid Alliance.

For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Simone Friend at 562 431-1247 or by e-mail at orchidsimone@aol.com. The cost per ticket is \$60 and \$70 at the door. Considering all that the day offers, including a visit to the gardens and the conservatory, this is a great value and a memorable way to begin the summer season.

Get Well Wishes

Vera Arnold's husband, Jim, is in the hospital recovering from a recent surgery....

We are thinking of the two of you and wish you a speedy recovery, Jim.



President's Message

Many thanks to **Jim Miller** and all his helpers for their leadership of our efforts at the Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza. (Read: They put in lots and lots of time.) We managed to sell all but a few of the plants that we had bought for resale, despite the intense competition from cut-rate orchid vendors. The foot traffic was terrific and importantly we were able to hand out hundreds of flyers for NHOS. Next year we will sell more, management willing. Although we did make some money on our maiden voyage at this even, our chief fundraiser, the Annual Auction, is still to come. **Joe Rupp** and his gang are advertising to other societies and have flyers going in some retail stores, but it is really a duty of all members to come and bring a friend (and a few bucks) to this event. The Society needs your support! And anyway you do really want a couple more plants, don't you?

May you always have something in bloom,

Tom Harrison

May Refreshments

For the May meeting, would members beginning with **Irma Adams** and ending with **Paula Butler** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

Grower's Spotlight

Ron Dier

I came away from my recent visit to Ron Dier's home and gardens in total awe. Having admired his beautifully grown specimen plants at our meetings over the



years, I knew I would be in for a treat, but I had no idea before my visit that I was in for a total botanical and art experience. Ron and his partner, Jock, are dedicated and very knowledgeable gardeners whose

house sits on an acre of terraced land with a breathtaking view of the Pacific and the canyon below. Tropical water-loving vegetation is featured around the house, with more draught tolerant plants gracing the lower sections of the garden. Among the many surprises is a mini vineyard that has yet to yield its first bottle of wine due to the greedy birds that feast on the grapes before they can be harvested.

Ron became interested in orchids about 11 years ago when he began incorporating cymbidiums into his landscape. He was introduced to Alba Connors, whom he calls his "orchid grandmother." She provided him with lots of advice and cultural tips. As most of us do in the beginning, Ron bought far more than he could grow. Pat and Ginny Worthington also provided a lot of encouragement and technical advice to Ron, particularly as he planned to build his greenhouse. Dave and Judy Smith have also served as friendly advisors, mainly encouraging Ron to temper his collecting tendencies, in other words "buy less and maintain what you have," good advice that we can all follow.

The majority of his orchids thrive in a 20'x 40' redwood and lexan greenhouse that he and friends constructed seven years ago. An interesting tidbit is that in digging the foundation they unearthed fossilized clams and other fossilized marine life. Ron's collection, (or should I call it his orchid jungle?) consists of approximately 1000 orchids, with lots of intriguing species and hybrids, that include lycastes, pleurothallids, dendrobiums, gongoras, slipper orchids (phrags and paphs), vandaceous orchids, laelias

and cattleyas, among many others that I could not recognize. The afternoon I visited lots of lycastes were in bloom, as were some very different dendrobiums and pleuros, including his *Pleurothallis teaguii*, that garnered a CCE (or a "CC whatever" to quote Ron) of 92 points earlier in the week. Ron uses deionized water in his greenhouse; he waters frequently and fertilizes weekly weakly. One of the hardest lessons he has had to learn is to not over water. Because of the high levels of humidity Ron grows many of his plants in clay pots rather than plastic.



If you can imagine, Ron's garden and greenhouse are only part of the story. I haven't even touched on the unique art collection that he and Jock have collected during their travels. All of these elements come together as testimony to their collective creative talents, perseverance, hard work, and love of things floral. Thanks, Ron, for letting me visit.

Nancy Benay
Co-editor

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Editor: Nancy Benay
Designer/Editor: Christine Aschan
caaschan@uci.edu | 949-824-7005

NHOS Website: www.nhos.org
Web Designer: Marcie Hague
Marcie.hague@cox.net

Orchid photo courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Membership Corner

Welcome, welcome, welcome. I'd like to welcome some new members to our group. **Wannee Kornfield** from Irvine, CA. If any of you are planning to make the trek down to the Flower Fields, you might see Wannee there. Make sure to say "hi." We also have **Terry Hemmert** from Norwalk joining us. I hope to run into Terry at the next meeting.

Thanks to all of you who sent along good wishes. My knee surgery went well and Tess and I are planning to be back at the next meeting.

Speaking of the next meeting, it is our annual auction. I was telling **Jim Miller** that I usually pick up those cheaper orchids and give them to my friends as gifts. They think I spent a lot, and only you will know you didn't. I won't tell if you don't.

Anyway, see you all at the meeting and I'm practicing my paddle raising so I'll be in shape. See you there.

Deb Munson
Membership Secretary

And the Nominations Are In...

for 2008-2009 Officers & Board Members

The Nominating Committee's recommendations for officers and board members for the coming year are:

President	Tom Harrison
1st Vice-President	Denise Claycomb
2nd Vice-President	Joe Rupp
Corporate Secretary	Margaret Nerio
Membership Secretary	Laura Perry
Treasurer	Richard Hara
Ex-Officio	Jim Miller

Board of Directors

Term expires 2011 (three-year term):
Nahid Khonsari, Michael Miranda, Rick Wells

Term expires 2010 (two-year term):
Guy Gottschalk, Linda Iannelli

Term expires 2009 (one-year term):
Hai Bui, Tina Coombe, Phil Duke

Elections will be
held during
the meeting on
June 17th!

April 2008 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Epi stamfordianum Dorothy Goldberg	Cattleya Old Whitey Janell & Harry Schuck	C. Penny Kuroda 'Spots' x C.aclandiae Joe Rupp	Winn Winmaw
CYMBIDIUM	Cym. pumilum Lynn Wiand	Cym. Mary Green Lynn Wiand	Cym Miss Muffet Kayoko Nebrig	Judy Smith
DENDROBIUM	Den. nestor W & C Winmaw	Den. Angel Baby "Little Darling" Denise Claycomb	Den. Nobile "Sailor Boy" Kay Firebaugh	Greg Fryling
MAXILLARIEAE	Maxillaria. picta Lynn Wiand	Maxillaria.tenuifolia Dorothy Goldberg	Bifrenaria tetragona Lynn Wiand	Dave Smith
ONCIDIUM	Odcdm Mem Clarence Ching Gen Gunderson	Onc. maculatum Barb Livingston	Tricopilia suavis Rick Wells	Winn Winmaw
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Paph St. Swithin x sanderianum Lynn Wiand	Phrag. Eric Young Joe Rupp	Phrag. Ashley Wilkes Dick Hess	Greg Fryling
PHALAENOPSIS	Dtps Ming Hsing Beauty Roberta Fox	Sarcochilus hartmanii Kayoko Nebrig	Phal. Yella Norange Gen Gunderson	Dave Smith
PLEUROTHALLID	Masd. Veitchiana Joe Rupp	Stelis cilicum Dick Hess	Masd. setacea Lynn Wiand	Guy Gottschalk
VANDA	Oeoniella polystachys Merle Robboy	Sedirea japonica Dick Hess	Ascocenda Princess Mikasa Dorothy Goldberg	Dave Smith
MISCELLANEOUS	Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis Denise Claycomb	Lockhartia mistedii Dorothy Goldberg	Polystachia sp. Lynn Wiand	Guy Gottschalk
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Slc Jewel Box Leo Brandt	Phal. Purple Joyce Nugent	Laelia purpurata Earl & Joyce Hare	Judy Smith
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Maxillaria. tenuifolia	DOROTHY GOLDBERG		Weyman Bussey



Mark Your Calendars...

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.

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Sixth Orchid Digest Speaker's Day. "Those Marvelous Miniature Orchids. Afternoon seminars, dinner and evening Distinguished Speaker Event. Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino. Contact Simone Friend at 562 431-1247 or via e-mail: orchidsi-monef@aol.com. Tickets: \$60 per person (\$70 at the door).

Friday, July 11-Sunday, July 13, 2008

28th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair Earl Warren Showgrounds.

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

NHOS Annual Awards and Installation Banquet. Michael Miranda's House.



Deb Munson
5 Crosscreek
Irvine, CA 92604



Address Update Requested