



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

June 2008

June Speaker

Marilyn Levy

"I Never Met an Orchid I Didn't Want to Grow"

Our June speaker is Marilyn Levy, who is an AOS Accredited Judge and Training Coordinator, Pacific South Region (Southern California). Her talk will cover many kinds of orchids, and how to grow them successfully.

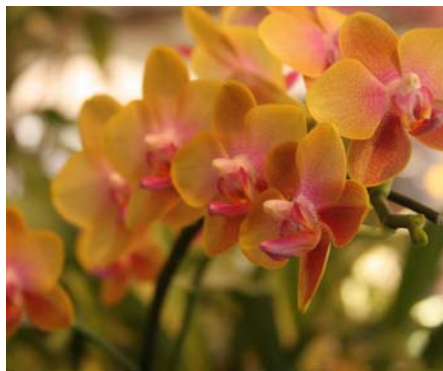
In college Marilyn majored in Art and minored in the Biological Sciences and in History, in particular, Greek and Roman History. She taught for 34 years and claims that all of these specialties have been of enormous use when it comes to her "passion" orchids. Marilyn first started growing orchids in 1972 while still in Detroit. Her first orchid was a Paphiopedilum, and Paphs. still take up a majority of her greenhouse space. She has grown orchids under many conditions--on tabletops, on a windowsill, under lights, in a light stand, in a basement greenhouse and finally in a greenhouse.

Marilyn and her husband moved to California in 1987, and her orchid collection increased substantially. She now has two large lath houses, two covered stands in the garden for cool growing Paphs., a 24' x 9' greenhouse and a four-shelf light stand for flasks, compots and newly established plantlets. Her collection is varied; in fact, she calls herself an eclectic grower. While she has made an occasional cross, most of her flasks are purchased from other growers. In 1995, Marilyn became an accredited Cymbidium Society Judge and an AOS accredited

Judge in 2000. She doesn't consider growing orchids a hobby; she considers growing orchids a passion. It should be a lively talk.

Incidentally, Marilyn will provide the plants for the raffle table.

Denise Claycomb
First Vice-President



Awards Banquet

Mark your calendar for the **Annual Installation and Awards Banquet** on Tuesday, July 15.

All society members are invited. Note that the banquet is the July meeting.

Michael Miranda has graciously offered his backyard once again this year. It is always a very enjoyable event. More information in the July newsletter.

Mehrnez (Mary) Kermani and Phil Duke are the co-organizers.

June Culture Class

NHOS member Marvel Carlson will conduct the June culture session. She will do a class on Cattelyas 101-- everything you want to know on getting those beautiful blooms.

Joyce Nugent

President's Message

Many thanks to **Joe Rupp** and his committee for the success of the NHOS Auction. The committee worked for months in the preparation and execution of the event. Between their hard work and the generous donors, both members and commercial growers, we will have enough support to keep going.

Thanks to **Merle Robboy** for his, dare I say "usual", great job as auctioneer. We were informed, entertained, and out on time.

We have just finished four major fund raising events and now it time for our membership drive. Please get your renewal check in and encourage your orchid friends to do so too. We can make the friendly reminder calls but it is easier if everyone just steps up.

Our Board will also be looking at ways to keep costs low this year in order to keep our finances solid. As we prepare to welcome in the new year and new Board members, things are looking good.

Best to you,

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.m.

Orchid Growing Tips by Susan Taylor

Editor's Note: Susan Taylor is an orchid hobbyist from Houston, TX. She is the newsletter editor for the Houston Orchid Society and is the Orchids Editor for an internet website entitled *Bella Online, The Voice of Women* (<http://www.bellaonline.com/site/Orchids>). She regularly publishes useful growing tips provided by orchid hobbyists.

Hydrogen Peroxide Uses

Hydrogen Peroxide in a 5% solution can be used to kill insect eggs and most insects upon contact when applied as a spray to infected plants. It also is a good additive to fertilizer solutions since it will kill bugs in the medium. A 10% solution is a good disinfectant for surfaces and potting materials used in either the greenhouse or indoor planting areas.

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Orchid photo courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Use "S" hooks instead of buying longer wire hangers

Most of the orchid supply vendors have something called "S" hooks which look just like what their name is, a large "S" shaped piece of wire. They are very inexpensive (and I suppose it would not be hard to make them yourself) and easy to use to add length to a plant that is putting out long inflorescences and needs more room above the normal hanging height.

Sterilizing utensils and used pots with Clorox

Use a 1:5 solution of Clorox to clean used pots, both plastic and clay, in order to sterilize them. In addition to thoroughly disinfecting the pots (including killing any viruses), it oxidizes and removes any organic debris. Dipping tools for 20-30 seconds will destroy any organism. Pots should be soaked overnight and then rinsed and allowed to dry completely before re-use.

Use yellow cups to catch insects

Smear plastic yellow cup with regular Vaseline and place in your greenhouse. The yellow color will attract all kinds of insects and they will be caught in the Vaseline. This works for aphids and mites.

Cutting cork mounts

Here's a neat idea for cutting large pieces of cork to the size you need. Use a drill to make a 'dotted line' to use to break the cork into the sizes and shapes you want from a large mounting piece. Then break the bark apart—it will give you a more natural-looking break than a sawed line does. It also helps to drill some extra holes in the cork to give the orchid roots a place to grow through and hang on. Try your local pet stores for cork and grape wood which are both excellent for mounting orchids.

Expression of Thanks

Many thanks to our friends
for all the cards and get well
wishes.

Vera and Jim Arnold

June Refreshments

For the June meeting, would members beginning with **Marvel Carlson** and ending with **Dorothy Goldberg** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

NEED A PLANT HOTEL?

For years now I have passed a large white greenhouse up on the side of the 5 freeway on my way to San Diego with the Orchids sign, but never stopped. A few weeks ago I decided it was time to stop and investigate. I was surprised at how much larger it was than it appeared from the freeway.

I introduced myself and was given the grand tour by Kathy, one of the two owners. I was further surprised to learn that the majority of the area in the green house was a plant hotel. The last hotel I was aware of in this area was Brecht Orchids in Costa Mesa, which has been gone for many years now.

The areas in the hotel were divided into several climate zones for the various types of orchids. The plants were all in excellent condition and not crowded to ensure good disease and pest control. Kathy advised they do notify the owner when the plant blooms so they can take it home and enjoy the flowers.

If you need this service contact Pat or Kathy at Cal Pacific Orchid Farm, 1122 Orpheus Ave., Leucadia, CA 92024, 760-436-0317.

Jim Miller

**DHONGCHAI
"BOB" PUSAVAT
1944 - 2008**

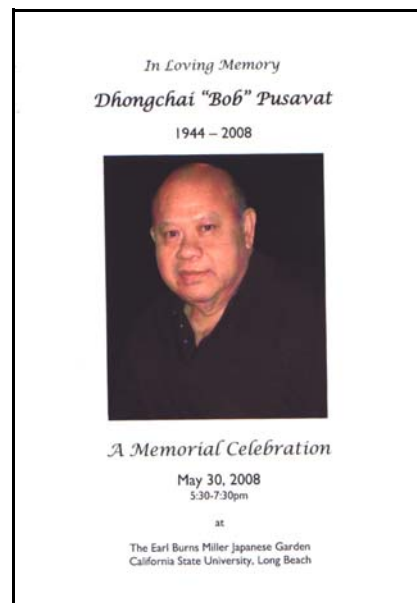
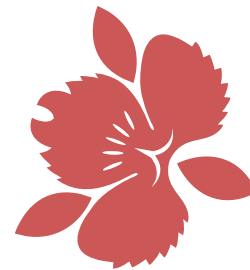
Bob passed away on May 6, 2008 with his family at his side. A sharing of memories was held May 30th in the serene setting of the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB.

As a past NHOS President (1995-1997) Bob was a true leader. He could quickly defuse any conflicts with his easy style of getting things done. You never saw Bob without that big smile on his cherubic face... always ready to meet a new friend... many of them in our orchid world.

Bob Pusavat was a tireless advocate for those in need. While Director of Housing and Redevelopment, Environmental Management Agency for the County of Orange, he built a reputation as

a fearless and selfless leader who broke through established boundaries in his pursuit of social justice. He constantly surpassed expectations, frequently applying his innovative and unconventional wisdom which resulted in many successful programs. His work with at-risk children ranked amongst his proudest accomplishments. He helped numerous youths escape gang violence and find better lives. Bob viewed life from a Buddhist perspective. He was an eternal optimist and lived his life to the fullest until the end. He was a great mentor and role model who will be missed by family, friends and all who came to know him.

Yoko, his wife of 37 years, finished her memories with: "Bob will always be a part of my heart... the BEST part."



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Sixth Orchid Digest Speakers Day. "Those Marvelous Miniature Orchids." Distinguished Speaker: Henry Oakley, British Orchid expert. 12 Noon-8:00 p.m. \$60 for afternoon seminars, dinner and evening distinguished speaker event; (\$70 at the door.) Space is limited. Contact: Simone Friend, 562-431-1247 or orchidsimonef@aol.com.

Friday, July 11, 2008

Talk by Dr. David DuPuy, lead author of a newly revised book, *Genus Cymbidium*. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center, 1232 De La Vina St. (at Victoria St.), Santa Barbara. www.cymbidium.org/SBCSDuPuy.pdf

Friday, July 11-Sunday, July 13, 2008

Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair. Earl Warren Showgrounds. Admission is free; \$5.00 parking fee. Open house at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchids, Goleta. More information: www.orchidfair.com.

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

NHOS Annual Installation and Awards Banquet at Michael Miranda's. Details to follow.

Deb Munson
5 Crosscreek
Irvine, CA 92604



Address Update Requested