



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

January 2009

President's Message

I hate bugs. My worst pests tend to be mealy bugs. My chief orchid related New Year's resolution this year will be to poison more. I do not grow my orchids organically (is there such a thing?) so this is a no-brainer. I have the poisons already; they are readily available and the instructions are clear. The general consensus seems to be that spraying the plants is best the day after watering. Most of my plants are stick mounted so I water every other day in winter. I end up just too lazy to get to the poison the very next day.

That being said, I am not too lazy or forgetful to forgo rubber gloves and a respirator. I went out and bought a twenty dollar or so paint spray respirator from Home Depot. This is a relatively cheap investment in keeping neurotoxins out of my system. You should wear a respirator too! You will live longer and with fewer tics.

Many, many thanks to **Mary Kermani** and **Phil Duke** for their wonderful work on the very successful Christmas Party. Both are always so dedicated. Poor Mary was ill this year and after helping to set things up, she went directly home so that no one could catch the bug that she had. What a dear!

The NHOS BOD next meets at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at the Costa Mesa Community Center.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy new year,

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.

WISHING YOU
A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

godt nytår

bonne année

ein gutes neues Jahr

hauoli makahiki hou

shana tova

felice anno nuovo

feliz año Nuevo

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới

šťastný nový rok

January Culture Class

Jerry Simpson of Easy Green Greenhouse in Pasadena, CA, will discuss growing orchids in a greenhouse. Easy Green has been in business since 1992 and is known for its redwood greenhouses.
<http://www.easygreenhouses.com/introduction.html>.

Joyce Nugent
Culture Class Coordinator

January Speaker Fred Clarke

"Venezuela's National Flower,
Cattleya mossiae"

Back by popular demand as our January speaker is Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. His talk is entitled "Venezuela's National Flower, *Cattleya mossiae*." It's a lively presentation on the beautiful *C. mossiae* in



the wild with amazing pictures of thousands of flowers covering the trees that Fred took on a visit to Venezuela a few years ago. Learn about the habitat and the perils that await *C. mossiae*.

Fred has been growing orchids for 30 years and has been hybridizing for 19 of those years. With over 22 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, located in Vista. His pioneering work in *Catase-tum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, including the grex, "Fredclarkeara After Dark," which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed."

He also breeds and grows other genera including *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Australian Dendrobiums* and *Zygopetalum*. Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. Orchids from Sunset Valley Orchids have received many AOS awards, including eight that have received the highest honor, the 'First Class Certificate'.

Fred will provide the plant raffle table, so there should be some great plants that are well suited to outdoor growing here in Southern California. He will also be selling plants.

Denise Claycomb, First Vice President

Member's Profile

Dick Hess

One of the fun aspects of my job as *Orchids Aweigh* editor is the occasional visit to NHOS members' homes and growing areas. It's been awhile since I've profiled one of our members, and I'm happy to begin the series again with this article on Dick and Sara Hess' orchid collection. They graciously invited me to visit on New Year's Day afternoon. As I learned during my visit, Sara had just recently spent over three weeks in the hospital, but was now home and feeling much better.



Dick, the orchid hobbyist in the family and an active member of a number of area societies, has been growing orchids for over forty-five years, more specifically since 1962 when his father gave him his first plant—a *Cymbidium Blue Smoke*. His collection has grown significantly both in size, range, and quality. Nestled in a sunny corner of the backyard are three greenhouses, each with its own history and growing conditions. The first one Dick showed me is over 60 years old and was originally owned by a Mr. Fricker, an orchid importer who lived in Huntington Park. It houses Dick's warm-growing paphiopedilums and bulbophyllums. In the winter the greenhouse is kept at 55 degrees at night. Just in front of this particular greenhouse is one of Dick's two shade houses where he grows temperature-tolerant paphs, as well as a mixture of laelias, cattleyas, oncidiums, and interesting tillandsias.

The second and largest of the three greenhouses provides an intermediate environment and houses a large variety of different genera. Numerous cattleyas were in full bloom the day of my visit, giving lots of color to the space. Though he does not grow a lot of phalaenopsis, Dick does en-

joy experimenting with different ways of growing them—mounted and in net pots upside down. I think the latter is a great idea since phals naturally grow down in nature, but having some medium in the pot, helps to keep the roots moist. I can't wait to try this idea in my own growing area.

Among Dick's favorite plants are phragmipediums, and his third greenhouse has ideal conditions for his very large collection of phrags. Resting under one of his benches are several Phrag. Kovachii crosses that he acquired at "dear prices" at last year's WOC in Miami. As Dick points out, the Kovachii hybrids are difficult to grow, though he's doing his best to nurse them along in a makeshift ICU.

Since he's been an active hobbyist for so long, it's great fun to talk to Dick about orchids. He has a great sense of the history of orchid growing in Southern California. A confident grower with a good eye for interesting plants, he is not afraid to try different things. Thanks, Sara and Dick for the visit.

Nancy Benay
Co-Editor

Officers 2008-09

President

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

Board of Directors

Ha Bui

Tina Coombe

Phil Duke

Guy Gottschalk

Linda Ianelli

Nahid Khonsari

Michael Miranda

Rick Wells

Orchids Aweigh is published monthly.
News deadline is the 25th of each month.
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 photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Culture Corner

Cinnamon Tips

Here are a number of ways that cinnamon can be used with your plants, orchids and otherwise. The tips were published in a recent issue of *Orchids Digest*, an on-line orchid chat space and were submitted by Ray Barkalow of First Rays Orchids www.firstrays.com: plants, supplies, books, artwork, and lots of free information.

50/50 with Elmer's Glue as an anti-fungal poultice. Sticks well to wounds; eventually washes away.

As a powder - dries out crown rot very well, as well as other fungal infections. Do not apply broadly to roots, as it seems to slow, or stop, growth. Dipping cut root ends is no issue.

Mixed with lanolin - another great poultice.

Mixed with Vaseline petroleum jelly - not good on plants, but did cure athlete's foot (no kidding - although the brown gunk between the toes is a bit disconcerting. Your feet do smell good, though).

Water infusion - stop "damping off" of terrestrial seedlings.

Alcohol infusion - a great general fungicide as a spray in the GH. Has cured a fungal infection of the skin in environments that were constantly warm and moist.

January Refreshments

For the January meeting, would members beginning with **Lynn Wiand** and ending with **Hank and Nancy Blaes** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

Holiday Potluck: What a Swell Party It Was!



Member News

Thinking of you....

Georgette Robboy has been undergoing medical treatment. Our thoughts are with you, Georgette and Merle.

Condolences...

to Guy and Ann Gottschalk. Guy's father, Dr. Louis Gottschall, who was a pioneering neuroscientist and distinguished professor at UC Irvine, passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

Happy News to Report...

On December 31, 2008 Tina Coombe, our resident photographer, became a grandmother of a beautiful baby girl named Anna Noel Horn. Happy grandmothering, Tina.

Orchid Trivia

Did you know?
The largest orchid is generally agreed to be *Grammatophyllum speciosum*.

It can weigh up to 2,000 pounds or 900 kilograms and is reputed to produce up to 10,000 flowers on a mature plant in nature.



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, January 17-Sunday, January 18, 2009: San Diego County Orchid Society Winter Show In The Park. Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 18th 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free. For more information: <http://www.sdorchids.com/www/shows.htm>.

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 noon. Call (760) 732-0055 for more information.

Saturday, February 21 – Sunday, February 22, 2009: Gardena Cymbidium Club, Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, CA 90247. Free Parking, Free Entrance, (310) 217-9537.

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. 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 Allegheny
Irvine, CA 92620



Address Update Requested