



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

December 2009

President's Message

I think as orchid growers we all have at least one cattleya in our collection growing and blooming outside on our patios. At November's meeting Peter Lin opened up the world of 'mini-catts' to us. These precious miniatures of the big ones will grow and bloom indoors on a window sill. Peter showed us the wide variety of colors and color patterns of their blooms. I think I will be making some room in my garden window for a few of these little cuties.

At our holiday party this year, we will be doing our plant exchange again. Please bring an orchid plant (from your collection or purchased) or an orchid related item for the exchange. (More info in the newsletter).

Our roving reporter/news editor recently visited the Denver Botanical Garden; don't miss reading what she found there. I can't believe this year is coming to a close; where did it go? We had our first Oceans of Orchids Show meeting last January; at the time, the show seemed so far away, and now it is upon us. We have one more society meeting in January before NHOS's biggest undertaking: The Oceans of Orchids Show. We are asking our members to volunteer to help make this show a success, but it takes the effort of not only our society members, but volunteers from the local societies. So please if you haven't signed up yet, the sheets will be out again at the January's meeting.

Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday. May all your wishes and dreams come true, and have a Happy, Happy New Year.

Denise Claycomb
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.

The weather outside may be *frightful*,
but the fête will be *delightful*!

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 15th meeting. There will be no culture class and speaker presentation that evening, but there will be plenty of great food, a plant exchange and lots of conviviality. The main dishes will be baked ham and beef tenderloin.

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

Categories by last name are:

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

**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 Mary Kermani for helping to organize the event.

The Roving Orchid Reporter: Denver Botanic Gardens and Fantasy Orchids

It's been awhile since I've travelled anywhere beyond Santa Barbara and San Diego Counties, but this Thanksgiving I spent the holiday with my daughter Françoise and her husband, Ryan and his extended family.

When most people think of Colorado they think mountains, snow, skiing and outdoor sports; I doubt that orchids readily come to mind, though there are quite a few native species to be found in Colorado, but in November they are buried under snow. No, I did not go there to look for native species, but rather to find the tropics in the shadows of the Rockies. And indeed I did find a tropical rainforest at the Denver Botanic Gardens and lots of blooming orchids at Fantasy Orchids.

The Denver Botanic Gardens contains a wide range of beautifully landscaped gardens and collections with a diverse assortment of plants from all over the world. Though I enjoyed exploring the outside gardens thanks to the mild weather, I was

nevertheless eager to see their tropical collection housed in the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory, that houses a collection of nearly 3,500 taxa representing over 2,400 species from 656 genera and over 120 families. Very impressive.

The moment we entered into the humidity and warmth of the conservatory I felt I was at home in Denver. Before us was a breathtaking array of bromeliads, palms, aroids, fabulous gingers reminiscent of Hawaii, tropical begonias, gesneriads, and, of course, orchids flourishing under a three-story dome.

Many of the orchids are mounted, though there were a few cattleyas (a very large specimen plant of *C. Bowringiana* greeted us at the entrance). In full bloom was a *Schomburgkia* (splendida, I believe) growing in full sun, mounted oncidiums of different sorts beginning to spike. I particularly enjoyed their collection of blooming *Spathoglottis*. We also found a number of different pleurothallids hiding here and there.

Wouldn't you know that the only orchid nursery in Colorado is located just ten minutes from my son-in-law's and daughter's home in Boulder? We spent about an hour enjoying Fantasy Orchids and talking with its three owners. The very large greenhouse is 10,000 square feet housing about 100,000 orchid plants from seedlings to specimen-sized plants, lots of cattleyas

(many in bloom or in spike), phalaenopsis, and dendrobiums, and many other genera as well.

On display in the center of the greenhouse is a 30-year old amazing *Potinarra* mounted to a post that has been in constant bloom since August 2005. I'm always curious about greenhouse heating bills in cold climate, but since the greenhouse is heated with hot water that runs through pipes installed under the benches their heating bills are not as terrible as one might think.

One of the owners, Kent, has a corner of the greenhouse where he tends to his personal collection. I marveled at seeing some of his specimen-sized *Phalaenopsis violacea* in bloom, a *Dendrobium tetragonum* in full bloom (mine won't even begin spiking until February, if I'm lucky). He also has a very large *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* that produces carrion scented flowers (a polite way to say "stinky").

I have no plans to move to Colorado, but if I did live there, I know where I would spend lots of my time in the winter—and that would not be the slopes—but rather in the tropical conservatory and greenhouses at the Denver Botanic Gardens and Fantasy Orchids.

Nancy Benay
Roving Orchid Reporter

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Orchids Awake is published monthly.
News deadline is the 25th of each month.
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Views from the Denver Botanic Gardens



How about a nice
Hawaiian Papaya?



Cattleya bowringiana



Poisonous frog



Spathoglottis

It's easy being
green at the DBG.



In the conservatory
with an orchid.





Fantasy Orchids in Louisville, CO



Oceans of Orchids Show Update

We still have to get through the holidays and January, but before you know it the Oceans of Orchids Show will be here: February 12-14, 2010 at the Westminster Mall.

The show is indeed coming together very nicely. As of early December we have close to twenty paid vendors with more expressing interest, and six area societies have agreed to put in displays (this is in addition to the NHOS display). Soon you will be able to track the show's progress via our website: www.nhos.org.

2009 November Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Cattleya Portia-Cannazaro Lee Brandt	LC Mini Purple Dave & Judy Smith	Cattleya Angel Bells Roberta Fox	Joyce Nugent
DENDROBIUM	Den. bracteosum Lynn Wiand	Den. bigibbum Dorothy Goldberg	Den. phalaenopsis Nancy Benay	Greg Fryling
CYMBIDIUM	Cym. dayanum Dave & Judy Smith	Cycnches. barthiorum Roberta Fox	Cymbidium "Ashley Bui" Ha Bui	Lily Hara
MAXILLARIEAE	Zygo Artur Elle Dorothy Goldberg	Maxillaria rufescens Roberta Fox		Nancy Benay
ONCIDIUM	Oncidium Kalihi "Big" Jim Miller	Miltassia (unnamed) Earl & Joyce Hare	Cohniella nuda (formerly Onc. Nudum) Merle Robboy	Lynn Wiand
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phrag Sedenii Joe Rupp	Phrag lindleyanum Dorothy Goldberg	Paph Lowii "Ashely" Ha Bui	Lisa Humphreys
PHALAENOPSIS	Dtps. I-Hsin Spot Leopard Kayoko Nebrig	"Purple Beauty" Joyce Nugent	Phalaenopsis Unknown Joe Rupp	Nancy Benay
PLEUROTHALLID	Masd. Copper Angel Barbara Livingston	Masd. Shirichi Komodo Nancy Benay	Scaphosepalum misterioso Dorothy Goldberg	Dave Smith
VANDA	Trichoglottis atropurpurea Dorothy Goldberg	Vanda Pachara Delight Gen Gundersen	Ascda Yip Sum Wah Roberta Fox	Winn Winmaw
MISCELLANEOUS	Bulbophyllum lasiochilum Lynn Wiand	Dendrochillum magnum Merle Roboy	Stenoglottis longifolia Kayoko Nebaig	Dave Smith
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Oncidium Hybrid Linda Iannelli			Lynn Wiand
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Dave & Judy Smith	Cymbidium dayanum		Peter T. Lin



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday and Sunday, December 5 & 6, 2009, 2009

- Open House at Casa de las Orquideas, Solana Beach, CA. Andy's Orchids, Islander Delights and the Rowland Collection will also be selling at the open house. 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA, 92075. <http://www.orquideas.com/newpage.html>
- Open House at Rudvallis Orchids; 9 am-3 pm; Encinitas, CA Call 760 438-2121 for more information
Open House at Sunset Valley Orchids, 10am - 4pm, <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>

Tuesday, December 15, 2009: Holiday Potluck, Newport Harbor Orchid Society.

Saturday February 6, 2010: Annual Orchid Auction, San Diego County Cymbidium Society. Preview at 11 am. Auction begins at 12 noon. Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA 92008. Auction Chairperson: orchldy2@mac.com or 760-732-0055.

Friday, February 12-Sunday, February 14, 2010: Newport Harbor Orchid Society's Oceans of Orchids Show and Sale. Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA. It's early, but mark your calendar. More information to follow.

Friday, February 26,-Sunday, February 28, 2010: San Francisco Orchid Society 58th Annual Exposition, Fort Mason Center Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA. Contact: For Information; (415) 665-2468; www.orchidsanfrisco.org.

Saturday, March 6-Sunday, March 7, 2010: South Bay Orchid Society Show, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA. Contact: Marla Corey, 1958 W. Summerland, Palos Verdes, CA 90275; (310) 707-7097; marlacorey@sbcglobal.net.



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Address Update Requested