



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

February 2009

President's Message

I wish I had been with Fred Clark on that trip to Venezuela. The jungle with those pink, white and gold, *Cattleya mossiae* was just great looking. The kids cutting the plants out of the trees reminded me of Tom Sawyer -- local rascals. One day I am going to take a tour.

Did you know that NHOS used to put on a really good orchid show in the past? It was called "Oceans of Orchids." Now that it appears that the Fascination of Orchids show has moved to Fall, the NHOS Board of Directors has formed an exploratory committee to find a venue and to investigate the feasibility and desirability of an NHOS Winter 2010 show for Orange

County. Many factors are involved and the idea may not go anywhere. Committee members include Nancy Benay, Ha Bui, Denise Claycomb, Phil Duke, Richard Hara, Jim Miller, Margaret Nerio, and Rick Wells. Updates on the committee's progress will follow.

South Coast Plaza is having its annual Spring Garden Show April 23-26, this year. NHOS will be there selling orchids and orchid stuff to raise money. This event is going to be important to the financial well being of the Society. Jim Miller is heading up the team effort. He is going to need help. Please step forward and see Jim Miller or Tom Harrison, if you can help us plan and man the booth.

As I have mentioned before, one of the top goals of NHOS for the year is obtaining 501c3 status from the IRS. Linda Ianelli is heading up the group effort to accomplish this. She has requested that we dig up as many of our old documents as may be accessible that she may gather information to make the case on the application, an apparently nightmare. We have the newsletters but lack much of the Board minutes from more than about eight years ago. If you were on the Board some time ago and have coincidentally got some papers, please give them to Tom Harrison or Linda Ianelli at the February meeting.

All the best,

Tom Harrison

February Speaker Ron McHatton

"Madagascar: Why It's So Special"

Back by popular demand as speaker at our February meeting is Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations. Ron last spoke to our group in September 2007 on "Developing Orchid Pollinators."

A Ph.D. chemist by training, he was previously the Apopka production manager for Kerry's Bromeliad Nursery, possibly the largest wholesale orchid nursery in the United States and one of the largest Bromeliad wholesalers as well. Ron has been growing orchids for more than 43 years and has an eclectic collection of plants

representing a wide cross-section of the orchid family.

His passion for orchids has spanned virtually every growing regime from windowsills to under lights to greenhouses running from a 200 square foot hobby house to several acres of commercial growing space.

Over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2500 plants. In

addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge and has been volunteering for the AOS for over 25 years. During that time, Ron chaired several national committees, twice held a seat on the organization's Board of Trustees and briefly



served as vice-president.

In addition to Ron's volunteer support of the AOS, he has also been a long-time supporter of the *Orchid Digest*. In this role, he has served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

Lico Orchids will provide the plant raffle table.



Meetings are held on the
third Tuesday of each month

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

February Culture Class

At publication time there were no volunteers to conduct the culture class.

Member's Spotlight

Alba Connor

Founding NHOS Member

Editor's Note: I want to thank Rick Wells for arranging my visit with Alba.

Recently I made my way down to Alba Connor's house in Dana Point to visit with her and tour her growing areas. For many reasons this was a very special visit for me. For the newer members in our group, Alba is a founding member of the NHOS and served on the board in the early 1980s when "Doc" Charles was president.

Up until a few years ago, she attended meetings regularly sitting in "her seat" in the front row next to Pat and Ginny Worthington. At the age of 96 and in delicate health, Alba is no longer able to attend meetings, but she maintains her love and avid interest in orchids.

As I spoke with Alba, I began to realize that she is a pioneer of sorts on a number of different levels. She was born in Pig Pine, CA, a small town at the foot of the

Eastern Sierra Nevadas. When Alba was a small girl, the family moved to Blythe where they farmed cotton. They also lived in Winnemucca, NV, and Trona, CA, where she eventually met her husband, Bart. Alba's father was a tungsten and gold miner. Fifty years ago Bart and she moved to Dana Point from Reno, NV. She worked as a beautician for many years in Laguna Beach, and Bart was a successful retailer who was part of the group that spearheaded the development of Dana Point Harbor. They were charter members of the yacht club there.



With a long interest in flowers, Alba began collecting orchids shortly after arriving in Orange County. Naturally, she began with cymbidiums. She used to drive to Stewart's Orchids, which, at the time, was located in Alhambra. There she got to know B.O. Bracee and Ernest Hetherington. She joined a number of area orchid societies: South Coast Orchids, the Southern California Orchid Species Society, Orange County Orchid Society, CSA branches of Orange County and San Diego, and finally the Palomar Orchid Society. In 1979 she was part of the organizing group that met at Paul and Jane Brecht's home to organize the NHOS. Her collection of membership badges is proof of all of her affiliations.

In 1979 Alba and Bart went on the first of a number of orchid treks to South and Central America. Paul Gripp of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate was on that first trip which took them to Northern Peru. They visited the Amazonas region where they saw all sorts of orchids including *Oncidiums*, *Masdevallias*, *Phragmipediums*, and *Telepogons*. With permits in hand they collected and brought back *Oncidiums*, *Masdevallias*, *Phragmipedium caudatum*, which they collected at a ranch in Chachapoyas, and many other plants, some of which she still has in cultivation. Other



trips followed to Brazil, Panama, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica (a trip led by Merle Robboy), and the San Blas Islands.

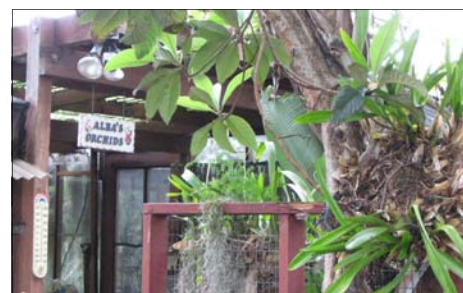
In her side yard, Alba has three 40-year old greenhouses from California Redwood Greenhouses. Since she is no longer to take care of her orchids, Rick Wells and Lou Beilharz, both NHOS members and long-time friends, now take care of the greenhouses, which they are refurbishing. They have also undertaken to repot her plants.

Alba's collection consists of a wide range of orchids, both species and hybrids: lots of *oncidinae*, *cattleyas*, *laelias*, *phalaenopsis*, *cymbidiums*, *dendrobiums* (in fact, there is a huge *speciosum* that is in spike), and *cymbidiums*. These are just a few. With her caretaker, Alba still visits the greenhouses to see what is blooming. As you can see from the accompanying photos, there were lots of plants in bloom the day of my visit.

Over the years Alba has encouraged and mentored numerous orchid hobbyists. She belongs to a generation of Southern California orchidists and growers who very early on established a legacy for today's hobbyists.

Thank you, Alba and Rick for the visit.

Nancy Benay
Editor, *Orchids Aweigh*



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.

In the News...

Congratulations to Dorothy Goldberg who was one of two recipients this month of the *Orchid Digest* Diamond Award for her service to the Southern California Orchid Species Society. "In an effort to keep species in front of various groups, she displays her own and other members exceptional plans in award winning displays at various venues. She has traveled extensively to collect unique species which she grows beautifully, always sharing her knowledge with others and always offering her help."

Official AOS and CSA photographer Charles Rowden has been honored with an exhibition of his fine art orchid photography entitled "Orchid Portraits" at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The exhibit opened on January 9th and runs through March 29th. Fine art orchid photography by Charles Rowden.

Membership Corner

In case you were not aware Guy Gottschalk has lost two family members within six weeks of one another. Dr. Lewis Gottschalk, Guy's father, passed away on November 28. On January 2, his sister passed away very suddenly. I am sure we all send our sympathies to Guy and his extended family at this double loss.

Address Correction for Alba Connor. The correct address is 24322 Pasto Rd., Dana Point, CA 92629, and her phone number is 949-496-5048. Please note the correction in your directory.

Laura Perry
Membership Secretary

February Refreshments

For the February meeting, would members beginning with **Kenton Boettcher** and ending with **Ken Englar** bring snacks to share. Thank you.



January 2009 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATLEYA	Laelia Santa Barbara Sunset "Showtime" Don Proul	Epi. conopseum Denise Claycomb	Epi. boothianum Dorothy Goldberg	Lily Hara
CYMBIDIUM	Cym. Kiwi Baron Roberta Fox	Cym. Via Atlantica Kay Firebaugh	Cym. Via Horizons Roberta Fox	Rose Nakabara
DENDROBIUM	Den. Ophioglossum Dorothy Goldberg	Where are the Dens?	Dens: missing in Jan.	Winn Winmaw
MAXILLARIEAE	Max. praetans Nancy Benay	Max. luteo alba Dorothy Goldberg	Max. bracei Denise Claycomb	Winn Winmaw
ONCIDIUM	Blla Marfitch "Howard's Dream" Dorothy Goldberg	Onc. nebulosum Roberta Fox	Dagmara Winter Wonderland Merle Robboy	Nancy Benay
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phrag 'Eric Young' Denise Claycomb	Phrag. longifolium Denise Claycomb	Paph. callosum Merle Robboy	Nancy Benay
PHALAENOPSIS	Rhynchostylis Gigantea 'Spot' Merle Roboy	Rhynchostylis Gigantea 'Spot' Denise Claycomb	Rhynchostylis Gigantea 'Spot' Michael Miranda	Lynn Wiand
PLEUROTHALLID	Pleuro. sicaria Denise Claycomb	Where'd they go?	Coulda won...	Roberta Fox
VANDA	Neostylis Lou Sneary Nancy Benay	Renanthera monachica Dorothy Goldberg	Angraecum eburneum Denise Claycomb	Lily Hara
MISCELLANEOUS	Bulb. longissimum Denise Claycomb	Dendrochilum tigrellum Lynn Wiand	Liparis wenzelii Dick Hess	Roberta Fox
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Cym. Sarah Jean "Ice Cascade" Joyce Nugent	Cym. No tag Tina Combe	Barkeria Marsh Melton Joyce Nugent	Lynn Wiand
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Paph. gratixianum	Lynn Wiand		Fred Clark



Mark Your Calendars...

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 or <http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html>.

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. <http://www.sdorchids.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. <http://www.sborchidshow.com/>.

Thursday, April 23-Sunday, April 26, 2009: Southern California Spring Garden Show, South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa. <http://www.springgardenshow.com/>. The NHOS will have a booth at the show.



Nancy Benay
2 Allegheny
Irvine, CA 92620



Address Update Requested