



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

March 2009

President's Message

Newport Harbor Orchid Society has about 200 members, a large number for an orchid society. We enjoy really terrific meetings with quality speakers and many activities each month. Firstly this is accomplished because we have super members who actively display their orchids, help and feed our members, and make great friends. Secondly, we enjoy a good behind the scenes leadership team, consisting of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. I was asked recently to discuss the Board roles, so...

NHOS is a democratically run institution, where the highest policy making body is the meeting of the general membership. However, members typically delegate most maintenance issues to the Board of Directors based on a now thirty-year-old established format. The Board consists of 15 members and meets 6 times or so per year.

The President leads meetings, appoints committee chairs, and provides an organizational focus for the society. The VPs arrange for speakers, plant tables, and auctions. The Treasurer handles the bank accounts, reimbursements, taxes, and budgets. The Corporate Secretary takes meeting notes, announces meetings and does some correspondence. The Membership Secretary keeps track of the rolls including the directory, greets new and special attendees, makes announcements and orders name tags.

Board members participate at the bi-monthly meetings and volunteer for various projects and committees. The immediate past president, or Ex-Officio, acts as a member of the Board and provides or-

ganizational continuity. Many of the chores described above are written into the by-laws; others are by tradition. The by-laws of the Society provide for a "Nominating Committee" of 5 members that acts as a "head-hunting" committee, seeking out those active in the Society and confirming their willingness to participate in leadership. It presents a slate of candidates in April and publishes the list in May. The election itself is held at the June meeting and the new Board assumes office in July. However, any member of the Society may be nominated for office aside from the Nominating Committee at the May meeting.

If you are interested in serving as an officer or on the Board or in some other service capacity, let me know. I am on the Nominating Committee this year.

Have a wonderful month,

Tom Harrison
President

March Speaker Dr. Holger Perner "Dendrobiums of China"

Our program this month is on the "Dendrobiums of China." Dr. Holger Perner, an internationally known orchid expert and speaker, will give us a brief overview of the seventy species found in China with remarks on their distribution, habitat, cultivation and propagation. This is his first talk to the NHOS, and it promises to be most interesting.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Dr. Perner did his undergraduate work at the University of Giessen near Frankfurt where he studied biology with a focus on plant ecology. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Hamburg. Throughout his career, Dr. Perner has conducted extensive research on orchids. In 1993-94 he was the leader of a joint research project

on the ecology of *Cypripedium* species in the Russian Far East with Russian partner Dr. Leonid Averyanov, Komarov



Botanical Institute, St. Petersburg. From 1992 to 2001 he worked as a scientist at the national GKSS-Research Center near Hamburg. In 2001 Dr. Perner became the senior advisor for the man-

agement of Huanglong National Park, Sichuan, China, and since 2008 he has been the technical director of Hengduan Mts. Biotechnology, Ltd., Sichuan, China. He and his family live in Sichuan. He is also a judge for the German Orchid Society, and has published in *Orchids* a series of articles on *Cypripediums* in China. Dr. Perner is also an expert photographer. I want to thank Norito Hasegawa for coordinating Dr. Perner's visit. Paphanatics will provide the plant table.

Denise Claycomb
First Vice-President

March Culture Class

Chuck Spain will conduct this month's culture class. He will explain how chemicals help orchids to grow.

I plan to step down as coordinator of the culture class this summer and am looking for that special person to take over the scheduling in August. Please let me or Tom Harrison know if you are interested. Also I want to thank Marvel for her loyal, able help, and friendship. I couldn't have done the classes without her.

Joyce Nugent

Meetings are held on the
third Tuesday of each month

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

Culture Corner

The Word for February – COLD!

Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education

Editor's note: This article is from the February AOS electronic newsletter sent to all AOS members

Unless you are fortunate enough to live in the perpetual springtime of Hawaii, February is one of those months you have to be on your guard for cold. Our members in the northern parts of the country are well aware of how cold it can be, especially this year, but the problem isn't confined to our northern states and not just a matter of air temperature. During the winter months, growers in the deep south may be exposed to rapidly fluctuating temperatures; 80 F today and 35 F tomorrow night and along with those cold snaps come often powerful, dehydrating winds. Those who grow outside should always be mindful that sometimes only a degree or two (or an hour or two) stands between tolerating a cold snap and total disaster. It's always

best to err on the conservative side, especially if your plants are wet when the cold arrives. Dry plants usually survive extremely low temperatures better than wet plants.

Those of you who grow your plants in bay windows or greenhouse windows should be aware of how cold it can become in those spaces. I once knew a grower in upstate New York who grew her plants on the floor of a bay window and, one particularly cold winter lost them when the pots froze because of poor insulation in the window floor. The plants looked okay for a few days and then died from the pot up. Along similar lines, think twice about drawing a curtain across the window to help keep the rest of the house warm at night. Doing so traps a layer of air between the curtain and the glass windows that can become dangerously cold as heat is lost through the window panes.

Even if you grow your plants in a greenhouse, you should be aware that the temperature of a wet pot can be significantly lower than the greenhouse air temperature especially if the humidity in the greenhouse is low or the heat source has a drying effect such as heated forced air. This is because the wet pots act as miniature humidifiers evaporating moisture into the dry air. Evaporation reduces the temperature just like perspiring helps make us feel cooler. Under certain circumstances, the temperature difference can exceed 10 F. Cold roots can be extremely damaging to warm-growing orchids and if you are lowering your thermostats to save fuel, watch these plants carefully.

This brings me to warm or tepid water. Even if you live in an area where you are fortunate enough to be able to grow your plants outside year round be mindful that the temperature of the water you use can become an issue this time of the year. Cold water can be as damaging to the roots of our plants as cold air can be to foliage. How can you easily tell if your water gets too cold – put your hand in it? It's often said that if you are comfortable your plants will also be comfortable and that's true of water as well. If you can't comfortably hold your hand for an extended period of time in your water supply it's too cold

Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza

Our society has been successful in obtaining a vendor spot for the 2009 Spring Garden Show. The show will be held at South Coast Plaza on April 23rd thru April 26th. The show hours are from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm Thursday & Friday; 10:00am to 8:00 pm Saturday and 11:00 am to 6:30 pm Sunday. Set up will be 8am to 9:30 pm on Wednesday and tear-down is Sunday after 6:30 pm.

We plan to distribute literature to promote Orchid Conservation as well as culture sheets and membership information for the American Orchid Society, *Orchid Digest* and the Newport Harbor Orchid Society. We will also be selling orchid plants, arrangements and supplies to raise additional money for our treasury. Please mark your calendar now for this important event.

This is our second year, and we need volunteers to help staff the table for four days. I will have volunteer sign up sheets at the next meeting or email me at jim_miller100@hotmail.com if you can help. This is a great venue and there will a large variety of vendors there.

Jim Miller

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.



Not receiving our emails about NHOS events and monthly newsletters?

The best way to let me know is to send an email to me at Jim_Miller100@att.net. I can then copy your email Address from that document to ensure accuracy.

Please make sure my address is not in your spam filter. Only you can control that function.

Thanks,
Jim Miller

Membership Corner

So nice to see Bill Fogarty at the last meeting. Bill was our president in 1983-1984 and is a wonderful grower. He tells me he is excited to be working on his orchids again, and happy to be back among us. It was also nice to see Norman Fang, of Norman's Orchids. Norman is always a contributor to our auction, and it is always good to have him visit. If you know of anyone who needs to be contacted for any reason, please let me know. Also keep us informed of any of our members who may be under the weather.

Sara Hess has been in the hospital for the last month following surgery. She is due to be transferred to UCLA for further treatment. Cards are welcome. We hope that you will be home soon, Sara.

Laura Perry
Membership Secretary



March Refreshments

We had a SOUPer February meeting with a terrific speaker, unbelievable plant display and expert commentary by Merle Robboy. The positive energy was palpable. What capped off the meeting was the refreshment table with Phil Duke's generous and tasty Asian inspired soup and Michael Miranda's chocolate dipped strawberries.

Hmm, wonder what delicacies we'll have at the March meeting? Would members beginning with **Georgia Farmer** and ending and ending with **Gerda Hayes** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

February 2009 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATLEYA	Slc Helen Veliz x Blc Orange Nugget Merle Robboy	Lc. Trick or Treat Joe Rupp	Cat. walkeriana Denise Claycomb	Winn Winmaw
CYMBIDIUM	Cym. Sinese Zhu Cal Lisa Humphreys	Cym Yamanishii Liberty Ha Bui	Cymb Sarah Lea Ice Cascade Joyce Nugent	Paula Butler
DENDROBIUM	Den. speciosum Joe Rupp	Den Zip x Dream Girl x Young Glow Ha Bui	Den. Nagaski Janell Schuck	Rose Nakabara
MAXILLARIEAE	Lycaste Hybrdi Unnamed Roberta Fox	Lyc. lasioglossa Lynn Wiand	Lycaste Aquilla Merle Robboy	Greg Fryling
ONCIDIUM	Ada auriantaca Kayoko Nebrig	Wils Hilde Plumtree Joe Rupp	Odon. Lovely Penguin Emperor Kay Firebaugh	Winn Winmaw
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Paph. insigne x spicerianum Lynn Wiand	Paph. Fanaticum Nico Goosens	Phragmipedium Denise Claycomb	Joyce Nugent
PHALAENOPSIS	Phal. Montclair/French Fairy Nahid Khonsari	Dtps. Lytsin Spot Leopard Kayoko Nebrig	No Name Denise Claycomb	Rose Nakabara
PLEUROTHALLID	Eria globifera Denise Claycomb	Pleurothallis unknown Denise Claycomb	Pl. restrepiodes Kayoko. Nebrig	Greg Fryling
VANDA	R. gigantea x V. coerulea Nancy Benay	What Happened??	No Entry!	Winn Winmaw
MISCELLANEOUS	Den. tenellum Lynn Wiand	Bulbo lindleyanum Greg Fryling	Oberonia iridifolia Merle Robboy	Lisa Humphreys
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Cym. Sarah Jean 'icicle' Jim Splittgerber	Paph. Shadow Wings x Cherry Cola No name: contact Val	Dend. Fallen Dolorian Jim Splittgerber	Lynn Wiand
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Den. Speciosum	By Joe Rupp		Ron McHatton



Mark Your Calendars...

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, "Green...With Envy," Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA. Contact: 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.

Saturday, May 9, 2009: Open house at Hatfield Orchids. We have just learned that there will be an open house at Hatfield Orchids on May 9th. Mark your calendar now and more details will be available as we get closer. This is always a fun outing with some great plants at special prices. George is a great supporter of the NHOS and we appreciate all he does for us!



Nancy Benay
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Address Update Requested