



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

April 2009

President's Message

Vielen Dank to Dr. Holger Perner for his talk on the Dendrobiums of China. Holger is a nice man and his talk was thorough (all 14 groups of dendrobiums were mentioned), but my favorite part was the technical difficulties before the show. He just could not get the computer slide show up for 15 minutes. I was chuckling to myself as I felt his pain. Computer problems can happen to anyone, Ph.D. or no.

Spring is orchid show season. I hope you had fun in San Diego and Santa Barbara recently. The season is not over though. NHOS is coming up on two major events. The Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza takes place April 23-26 and our annual

NHOS Auction is held at our May 19 meeting. We need volunteers at both events. Sign up for the Garden Show with Jim Miller at our normal NHOS April Meeting on April 21.

Although this is largely a resale fundraising even, we hope to do some recruitment as well. We need folks to sign up to sell



orchids at our booth, share their growing expertise and enthusiasm for orchids, and distribute our literature. With some luck we will pick up a few new members and make a couple of bucks.

The Auction is our big fundraiser, however. We need you to donate plants. We need you to show up. We need you to buy plants. We need you to bring some friends with some money to buy some plants. We need you to advertise to "wanna-be" orchidists and complete strangers (who have money to spend on orchids). Remember, you buying orchids at the Auction is not indulgent nor selfish nor wasteful; it is a serious and sincere way to support the Society! Please see Joe Rupp, if you can help.

May our hopes and flowers spring eternally,

Tom Harrison

April Speaker

Christopher Croom

"Sex and Ice Cream: Medicinal and Edible Orchids"

Our April speaker is Christopher Croom, aka Dr. Fragrance. For his second visit to the NHOS he will be speaking on the "Medicinal Use of Orchids."

Christopher has been growing orchids for 11 years in San Diego, and grows mostly species orchids entirely outdoors, year-round at his home in North Park. His collection consists of 250 plants containing a little bit of everything, including pepperings of Pleurothallids, droves of

Dendrobiums, a number of cool-growing Vandaceous picks, Cattleya alliance members, and terrestrial oddities like *Eulophia* and *Oeceoclades*.

Christopher worked with Andy's Orchids and potted, watered, mounted plants and sold plants at shows; is the editor of the SDCOS Newsletter and a Board member for the SDCOS since 2005. He has presented at numerous orchid societies along the west coast of the U.S.

Christopher is a full-time 8th grade chemistry and physics teacher at Roosevelt Middle School. In 2004 he won the AOS Dillon-Peterson essay competition with an article on fragrance in orchids, which was featured in the May 2005 issue of *Orchids* magazine.



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month

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



April Culture Class

Ha Bui will do a question and answer session on cymbidiums. Bring in your ailing cymbidiums for a diagnosis.

Joyce Nugent
Culture Class Coordinator

Visiting with Nancy....

I've long admired the orchids that Winn and Chitsaya Winmaw have displayed at meetings and local shows, so when the opportunity came up recently to visit their growing area, I jumped on the occasion. As you are going to read in the next few paragraphs, they have created a garden at their home in Huntington Beach that combines the influences and beauty of their native Burma within a Southern California landscape.

Once you go through the gate into their garden, you enter into a tropical world that Winn has created by mounting bromeliads, orchids, epiphylliums in baskets and lots of Spanish moss in the trees. In addition to their large orchid collection, the Winmaws have planted colorful flowers of all sorts and unusual succulents and interspersed Asian art pieces throughout their garden. The result is a strong visual aesthetic that comes from their love of plants and Winn's artistic background.

As we know from Winn's two talks on his

travels to Burma (Myanmar), he was "born with orchids." His birthplace is Shan State, an area in Eastern Burma that borders China to the north, Laos to the east, and Thailand to the south. It is a high plateau area with mild temperatures and rich flora. His parents had a very large garden, and at a young age he helped his grandmother take care of her plants. Once settled in Southern California Winn began building his orchid collection with purchases of plants from Les and Milli Starsky at the LaHabra Farmers Market. The Starskys are veteran orchid growers from Fullerton and are undoubtedly responsible for "hooking" many unsuspecting Orange County residents on orchid culture (including yours truly), but that is a separate story. On Chitsaya's side her father is also an orchid grower, and Winn's first cymbidium comes from his father-in-law's garden. Incidentally, it was in bloom the day I visited. Eventually through Bob Pusavat, a former NHOS president, and friend of the Winmaws, they joined the NHOS in the late 1990s.

They grow most of their plants outdoors in a long shade house that borders their patio,

including cattleyas, cymbidiums, dendrobiums of all sorts, and many other genera. Winn has a small greenhouse that he built himself a few years ago to house his warm growers, mainly vandaceous orchids. His favorite orchid is a *Rhyncostylis gigantea retusa*, that has won an AOS award. He has some prized plants that he has legally brought back from Burma, including a *Micropera rostrata*, that produces rich purple flowers. There are others, whose names I failed to record.

Earlier I referred to Winn's artistic talents, which become more evident when you go inside their home. Over the fireplace in their living room is a wood sculpture that Winn carved, based on a detail from a Burmese temple. He has designed some furniture pieces and in his spare time, he also paints. Though my visit was all too short and under gray skies, I was impressed by the serenity and beauty that Winn and Chitsaya have created in both their home and garden. Thank you so much for the visit and for the tasty salad.

Nancy Benay
Roving Reporter

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2009 NHOS Auction

Our annual auction is less than two months away. This year it will again be held the night of our May meeting, which is May 19.. We are very dependent on our members to patronize this event as it is a major source of income for the society, as well as donate quality plants that may be auctioned.

If you've started your re-potting, how about putting some of those flowering size potted/mounted divisions aside for our auction? Blooming plants bring in about four times as much. If not in bloom, a snapshot or internet photo taped to the pot works nearly as well.

The NHOS has been blessed with a significant number of new members in past months, and we are hopeful they will support the event. If you're interested in volunteering or have any suggestions that might make the auction a more interesting and fun event, please feel free to call Joe Rupp at 714-329-5155 or e-mail to joerupp@earthlink.net.

Joe Rupp, Auction Committee Chair
Second Vice-President

DON'T FORGET: Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza

The NHOS Booth at the 2009 Spring Garden Show, South Coast Plaza on April 23rd thru April 26th. The show hours are from 10:00 am to 9:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday; and 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday. This is a fundraiser for the society. We can always use volunteers to help staff the table for four days. Contact Jim Miller at jim_miller100@hotmail.com if you can help. This is a great venue and there will be a large variety of vendors there.

Jim Miller

April Refreshments

For the April meeting, would members beginning with **Lois and Bud Hayward** and ending with **Adriane and Gene Marcellino** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

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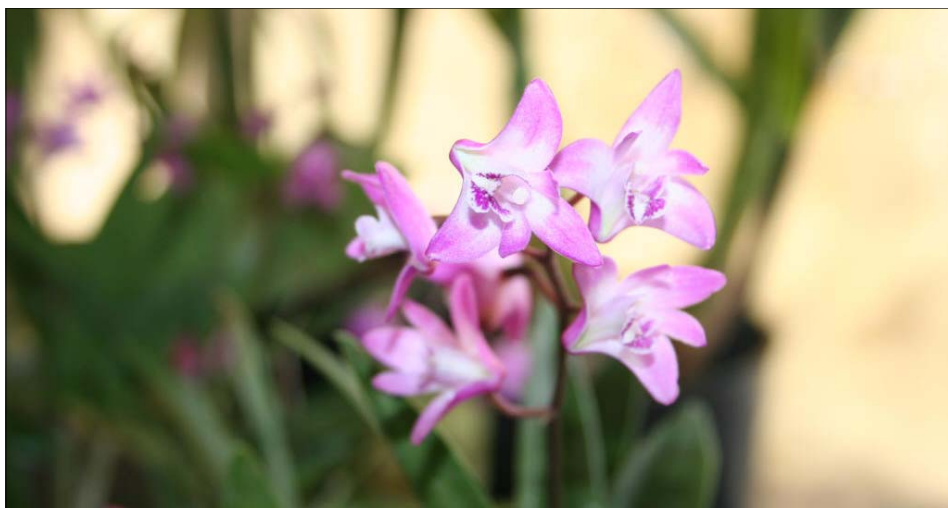
Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Membership Corner

We had several guests at the last meeting. So nice to see Harold Koopowitz, Norito Hasegawa, Karen Muir, and Steve Kemps. Marcia Marsey and Corina Torres will have membership applications in their email, and Dick Hess brought Sara's cousin, Ginny, to see us while visiting from Sun City, Arizona. Always good to see Jan Anderson at a meeting during one of her infrequent visits to Orange County.

Welcome back to Gisela Ferolito, who has rejoined the society after several years. We'll look forward to seeing her beautiful plants on the display table.

Take care, y'all.
Laura Perry
Membership Secretary



Medical Update on Sara Hess

Dick informs us that Sara has been moved to New Orange Hills, a rehab facility in Orange. He also writes that "this last week the transformation in Sara's condition has been wonderful beyond expectation, thanks to UCLA and the great team of doctors and nurses. She will probably be in there for three weeks. If you would like to call her the phone number is (714) 997-7090, and her room is 226, Bed B. She will need a couple of days to get used to being there."

March 2009 Judging Results

GENUS POINTS	FIRST PLACE 5 pts	SECOND PLACE 3 pts	THIRD PLACE 1 pt	JUDGES
CATTLEYA	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin' Joe Rupp	Pot. Free spirit 'Miami sun' Kayoko Nebrig	Oerstedetta Teraceros Merle. Robboy	Lily Hara
CYMBIDIUM	Cym Bellisimo 'Moon Stone' Ha Bui	Cym. schroederi Lynn Wiand	Cym Dorothy Stockstill Lynn Wiand	Judy Smith
DENDROBIUM	Den delicatum W & C. Winnmaw	Den Aussie Surpane Tom Harrision	Den. Star of Riverdene Greg Fryling	Dave Smith
MAXILLARIEAE	Max. densa Lynn Wiand	Max. Humato-glosso Merle Robboy	Max. sanguinea Dorothy Goldberg	G. Gottschalk
ONCIDIUM	Odon. cristatellum Merle Robboy	Onc. Pacific Rainbow Roberta Fox	Ada. aurantiaca Kayoko Nebrig	Dave Smith
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phrag Calurum Joe Rupp	Paph. Mem. Larry Henerx Dorothy Goldberg	Paph. Toni Semple Greg. Fryling	Jim Miller
PHALAENOPSIS	Phal. Purple Surprise Joyce Nugent	Phal. Ming-Hsin Joyce Nugent	Phal. schilleriana Denise Claycomb	Dave Smith
PLEUROTHALLID	Masdevalia veitchiana Roberta Fox	Mas. Pixie Lavender 'Fire x Ignea Bears' Michael Miranda	Pleur. No Name Denise Claycomb	Greg Fryling
VANDA	V. Robert Delight W & C. Winmaw	Cleisocentran merillianum Lynn Winad	Aerides rubescens W. & C. Winmaw	Greg Fryling
MISCELLANEOUS	Coryanthes macrantha Merle Robboy	Calanthe arisanensis Merle Robboy	Catasetum Rebecca Northern Kayoko Nebrig	G. Gottschalk
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	None	None	None	
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Maxillaria densa	Lynn Wiand		Holger Perner



Mark Your Calendars...

April 3rd thru 12th, 2009: Spring Orchid Festival Open House | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | 11039 S. Monte Vista, Montclair, CA 91763 | (909) 627-9515 | www.orchids.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.

Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26, 2009: Orchids at the Flower Fields, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Admission fee. www.theflowerfields.com.

Tuesday, May 19, 2009: NHOS Annual Ron Capps Memorial Auction. The auction is in lieu of the regular meeting.

Saturday, May 16, 2009: Casa de las Orquideas 2009 Seedling Clearance, 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075.

Saturday, June 13, 2009: Seventh Orchid Digest Speaker's Day, "Paphs and Phrags," Huntington Gardens, San Marino. Noon-8:00 p.m. Lecturers include Frank Smith, Krull-Smith Orchids, Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids, Bill Goldner, Woodstream Orchids, and Mark Hadorian, NY Botanical Gardens. Dinner and 3-D show by James Comstock. \$60 before June 9. Contact: Simone Fried 562-431-1247 or e-mail orchidsimone@aol.com



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