



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

June 2009

President's Message

Thanks to Joe Rupp and his team once again. The Auction was a success, and we came in at where we expected. Unfortunately costs have been increasing constantly. In order to attract the top quality speakers that we have come to expect, we are having to pay more. We do not have a corporate or civic sponsor so we pay rent for the use of the Community Center and that is not going down. In order to secure the Society's financial future we will have to consider a number of measures. The Board will consider various cost cutting measures. A dues increase must also be considered. We have already upped our fund raising efforts but we will also need to consider using the fall Greenhouse and Garden Tour as an opportunity to advance the Society's finances. Our up-coming show in Winter 2010 is also looking good

as a way to gather in some money, though this is not without risk.

There were no additional nominations at the May meeting, so the complement of suggested NHOS Board officers shall stand for election at the June general meeting as was printed in the May newsletter. It is a good bunch. I wish them, and myself as one of them, good luck. It will be a tricky next year with some unpleasant decisions and a lot of hard work. At least we shall be surrounded by our good friends and beautiful orchids.

I have an *Epipactis gigantea* ("Stream Orchid"), an Orange County/North American-native, terrestrial, which is just finishing up at this time. It had about 10 full spikes on it and had never before flowered this fully. I was thrilled. My *Encyclias* are coming into their own about now. I am

June Culture Corner

Lynn Wiand is doing a class on Orchid presentation. How to present your orchids when showing them for judging.

Joyce Nugent

looking forward to sharing more and hearing your wonderful orchid stories this July. Remember that our July meeting is the Installation Dinner. Phil Duke, Mary Kermani and Michael Miranda are again heading up the effort. Please see them to volunteer.

All the best in world to you,

Tom Harrison
President

June Speaker

James Rose

"*Lycaste skinneri* and Its Hybrids"

Our June speaker will be James Rose of Cal Orchids in Santa Barbara. James attended UC Santa Barbara as an anthropology major. In 1971 he began working at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. After 16 years there, and becoming manager, he left to establish his own nursery with his wife, Lauris. In 1987 they purchased *Orchids By Rowe*, a two acre cymbidium nursery two blocks from the Pacific Ocean (and right across the street from the Orchid Estate) and began to totally redesign the former cymbidium cut flower range to what is now a world renowned orchid nursery providing one of the largest varieties of orchid species and hybrids in the U.S.

The nursery maintains an active breeding program and stud collection built upon years of traveling the globe. James is very well known for having a distinctively selective 'eye' for the new unusual plant, and Cal-Orchid's new and loyal customers reap the benefits. The nursery's inventory features the *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Odontoglossum*, *Masdevallia*, *Calanthe*, *Lycaste*, *Paphiopedilum* alliances as well as a good assortment of African species. Most recently, the nursery has become recognized for their superior 'Pacific' line of reed stem *Epidendrums*.

James has published in the *AOS*, *Orchid Digest*, and *CSA* magazines, and is well respected for his vast knowledge as well as his distinctive sense of humor. He lectures all over the world...from Japan to South Africa, to Europe, at orchid shows and World Orchid Conferences. He is a *Cymbidium* Society of America Judge, former member of the *AOS* Conservation Committee, and active member of the Japan Grand Prix Organizing Committee where he judges every year at the Tokyo Dome.

Both James and Lauris have been very supportive of and generous towards the NHOS and other orchid societies, having provided some wonderful plants for our auctions and for plant raffle tables. Incidentally, Cal Orchids will provide the plant table for the June meeting.

It's going to be a fun and informative meeting that you won't want to miss.

Denise Claycomb
First Vice 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.**



Monthly Checklist for June

Editor's Note: reprinted from the AOS website.
The author is Ned Nash.

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to

build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both waterborne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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 Awake 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.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is

Membership Corner

It is time for dues renewals for 2009-2010. Please complete the form and return it to me with your dues by August 1st. Dues can also be paid at the June meeting. I want to point out that the annual dues are an important part of the NHOS's annual revenue and each of us benefits enormously from the society's monthly programs and activities. This is a reminder to those of you who attend meetings regularly but don't pay dues, that not only are you not supporting the society but are not covered for insurance liability should anything happen during a meeting or event. Thanks, in advance, for being so prompt.

Laura Perry
Membership Chair

June Refreshments

The following members beginning with **Else Olovsson** to **Beckie and Jim Splittgerber** are asked to provide refreshments for the June meeting. Thank you.

AOS Update...

AOS Botanical Gardens to Remain Open

Delray Beach, Florida- The American Orchid Society (AOS) Botanical Gardens, which were slated to close at the end of June, were given a new lease on life by the AOS Board of Trustees who voted unanimously on Tuesday (June 2, 2009) to keep the gardens open to members and to the public. Over 10,000 signatures were gathered that urged the Board to look for ways to sustain the gardens during the months when visitors are at low ebb. In addition to this overwhelming interest, a quickly formed pledge drive headed by the South Florida Leadership Council consisting of many local orchid societies secured some \$40,000 that will help towards that end and also had many people volunteering their time to maintain the gardens along with American Orchid Society staff.

2009 Auction Report

Loads of thanks to all who volunteered at last months annual auction. Without their help, it would not have been nearly as successful. Special thanks to Merle Rob-boy, who spent the entire evening as Grand Auctioneer, without taking a break. Vendors who have in the past and continue to support the society are: Cal Orchid, Sunset Valley Orchids, Norman's Orchids, The Rowland Collection, Paphanatics, Andy's Orchids, Orange County Farm Supply, Carter & Holmes,

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Wise Orchids, Hatfield Orchids, Lite Matsumoto & Casa de las Orquideas. The society grossed nearly \$4,800, and we were fortunate to have a good turnout of both members and non-members. Guy Gottschalk's Den. Speciosum was the big seller at \$215, but all our members who donated quality plants assured a successful event.

Thanks again,

Joe Rupp, Second Vice-President and Chair, Auction Committee

Awards Banquet July 21, 2009

Mark your calendar for the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet on Tuesday, July 21. All society members are invited. Note that the banquet is the July meeting. Michael Miranda has graciously offered his backyard once again this year. It is always a very enjoyable event. More information in the July newsletter. Mehrnez (Mary) Kermani and Phil Duke are the co-organizers.





Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, June 13, 2009: Seventh Orchid Digest Speaker's Day at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA. Noon-8:00 p.m. in Friends Hall. Tickets: \$60 before June 9 includes speakers and dinner. Program theme: "Paphs and Phrags." Lecturers: Frank Smith of Krull-Smith Orchids, Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids, Bill Goldner, Woodstream Orchids, and Mark Hachadorian, NY Botanical Gardens; 3-D Orchid Photo Show by James Comstock. Contact: Simone Friend at 562-431-1247 or via e-mail at orchidsimone@aol.com.

Saturday, June 13, 2009: Orchid Society of Southern California Annual Plant Auction, The First Christian Church, 221 South Sixth Street, Burbank. Doors will be open at 1:00 p.m., and the sale will start at 2:00 p.m. <http://www.orchidssc.org/>. Also from the OSSC is a flickr discussion group for all orchid hobbyists in Southern California that also includes a photo contest. For more information consult the OSSC website. Deadline to submit photos is June 20, 2009.

Friday, July 10: Come hear Orchid Fair guest author Lou Menezes. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center, 1232 De La Vina St. (at Victoria St.), Santa Barbara.

Friday, July 10-12, 2009: 29th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Prchid Fair. Earl Warren Showgrounds. Admission is free; \$5.00 parking fee. www.orchidfair.com. Open house at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchids, Goleta. Guest Author: Lou Menezes, Brazilian orchid specialist, whose latest book, *Laelia Purpurata*, will be featured at the sale.

Saturday, July 18-Sunday, July 19: San Diego County Orchid Society Summer Show in the Park. Room Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. www.sdorchids.com. Admission free.

Tuesday, July 21, 2009: NHOS Annual Awards and Installation Banquet at Michael Miranda's. More information to follow.

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.



Nancy Benay
2 Allegheny
Irvine, CA 92620



Address Update Requested