



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

January 2012

President's Message

Aloha everyone,

Happy New Year! What a great Christmas celebration we had with over 70 members in attendance.

A huge thank you to **Sir Phillip A. Duke** for organizing and cooking the society food along with **Rick and Eileen Wells** for the turkey! Thank you to everyone who participated by bringing food: **Rose Nakabara** for coordinating centerpieces, **Nico Goosens** for bringing beautiful orchid stems for the ladies, and **Richard and Lilly Hara** and crew for setting everything up for a beautiful event.

Karen Casey, our secretary, unexpectedly passed away on December 13th. Our thoughts go out to her husband, Larry, who

we were glad to see at the Christmas party. A memorial service will be held on January 14th. Details will follow.

In regard to the business of the society we will be renewing the community center contract for another year at the same rate as last year and I have appointed **Nancy Benay** to the board to fill a vacancy. We still need volunteers for the Orchid Expo which is rapidly approaching. Please give **Tina Coombe** a call.

Owing to Karen's passing, the Society very much needs another signatory on the bank account and we are actively looking for a member to volunteer to be the interim secretary until June.

If you can donate a couple hours a month let me know ASAP. It is not a huge time commitment and the current board is all

very helpful. Please consider taking on this imperative role without which the society will perish.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year,

Linda A. Iannelli, NHOS President



January Speaker

Dr. Holger Perner

"Come with Me to Western China to See Fascinating Orchids."

We are kicking off 2012 in grand style with Dr. Holger Perner as our guest speaker at the January 17th meeting. Dr. Perner will present "Come with Me to Western China to See Fascinating Orchids." It's an armchair orchid tour with lots of landscape, culture, stories, people, and, of course, orchids.

Dr. Perner is an internationally-renowned orchid specialist whose main area of interest lies in slipper orchids, Pleione and terrestrial orchids, and increasingly, in further tropical/subtropical genera such as *Dendrobium*. He is the author of several papers on orchids in international specialist journals, including the *Orchid Digest* and

Orchids, and co-author of internationally renowned works, including *The Genus Cypripedium* (1997), *Genera Orchidacearum*, Vol. 1 (1999), and has recently authored, in collaboration with Dr. Yibo Luo, the bilingual *Orchids of Huanglong* (hardcover, English/Chinese, 231 pages, 429 photos).



Dr. Perner's company, Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology in Sichuan, Southwest China, is the first nursery and lab in China to produce a wide range of species (and hybrid) *Paphiopedilum*, *Cypripedium*, *Pleione*, and other subtropical orchids for exportation.

Their work gained lots of attention when a shipment of previously banned slipper orchids was legally imported into the US in July 2011. This concluded years of work that began with collecting the seeds

of native Chinese orchids, many of which are endangered, propagating them in their laboratories, and finally obtaining the approval of the Chinese government, thus clearing the way for the US government to allow the plants and CITES paperwork to enter the country. We will learn more about this from Dr. Perner during his visit.

You can pre-order a wide variety of plants and take delivery in March during the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. See the main page of the NHOS website (www.nhos.org) for a complete list with descriptions and prices of the orchids. Additionally, Linda Iannelli has compiled a notebook from the Hengduan website for those who do not have access to the web. It will be available at the January 17th meeting so members can place orders.

See you on January 17th,

Nancy Benay

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month

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

January Culture Class & Speaker

Roberta Fox will be talking about *Laelia anceps*.

Impressions of the 20th *World Orchid Conference*

By Nancy Benay

For months I had been very excited about going to Singapore for the 20th World Orchid Conference. Since my first trip to Kuala Lumpur in 2002, I had wanted to return to SE Asia for so many reasons: its multiculturalism, its energy, the architecture, the multi-ethnic and pungent cuisines, orchids and more orchids, reconnecting with friends, and great shopping.

The trip, which included six days in Singapore, six days in Northeast Thailand, and two days in Kuala Lumpur, exceeded all of my expectations. Singapore is a beautiful city-state with incredible architecture. In fact, I like to describe it as “Beverly Hills on steroids.” While it may be a small country size-wise, it has enormous vision, and the energy is palpable.

I could go on with pages of superlatives about the WOC itself, but suffice it to say

that it was the “Olympics of orchid conferences.” Indeed, it set a new standard for future conferences in terms of the hospitality, the displays, the quality of speakers, and the range of topics. There were close to 1100 delegates from 52 countries in



attendance. The food was memorable—an elegant buffet lunch was served daily to the delegates in addition to morning and afternoon tea. With everyone eating together, it provided the opportunity to meet and talk to so many people.



The orchid trek to Thailand was great fun, and we saw lots of blooming and non-blooming orchids. Among the highlights of this trek was seeing Pleoines, Paphiopedilum velosum, various Coelogynes, and Cymbidium in-



signe in bloom in the Phu Luang Wildlife Preserve, a highland national park in Loei Province near the Laotian border. There are over sixty species of orchids in the park in addition to 100 wild elephants that live in the preserve and are part of an elephant rehabilitation project.

It was an uncanny feeling walking over and, in some places, in the footprints of elephants that use the same trails that we did. On the down side of our visit to Thailand was a firsthand view of extensive habitat destruction for agricultural purposes.

To give you a visual flavor of the WOC, I have included a few photos taken during my trip. Enjoy!

Officers 2011-12

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Linda Iannelli

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Joyce Nugent

Second Vice President

Joe Rupp

Corporate Secretary

Karen Casey

Membership

Laura Perry

Treasurer

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Ha Bui

Tina Coombe

Guy Gottschalk

Tom Harrison

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Count Down: Newport Harbor Orchid Expo

The 2012 Newport Harbor Orchid Expo will take place at the Westminster Mall. This year's show dates are Friday, February 10, to Sunday, February 12, 2012, and the theme is “Romancing the Orchid.” We can still use help getting the word out on Orchid blogs, orchid calendars, various garden clubs, Facebook, YouTube. If you can help, please e-mail Richard Hara or Nancy Benay.

Everybody bring blooming plants (we will make announcements in January). Everybody go see Lily Hara and Tina Coombe to volunteer. Everybody get on board!

Don't forget to sign up to help at the show. Just respond to Tina Coombe at tina.coombe@gmail.com with a date and time (morning, afternoon, evening) and she will find a spot for you. On the front page of nhos.org is the link to Newport Harbor Orchid Expo 2012. Check it out.

With Sympathy

Please send sympathy cards in memory of Karen Casey to her husband, Larry Casey, at 25061 Shaver Lake Circle Lake Forest, CA 92630.

NHOS Annual Auction

The next Auction Committee meeting is set for Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Mimi's in Costa Mesa (the one close to where we meet). Looking forward to your help! —Joe Rupp, Auction Chair

January Refreshments

Members from David A. Smith to Peter and Miko Yang are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting. Thank you!

Orchids Awake is published monthly. News deadline is the 25th of each month. Editor: Vacant Designer/Editor: Christine Aschan caaschan@uci.edu | 949-824-9045

NHOS Website: www.nhos.org
Web Designer: Marcie Hague
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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Hauling out the holly and decking the halls were the order of the evening at the NHOS Holiday Party!



More photos: http://www.tinacombphotography.com/Orchids_%28NHOS%29/Xmas_2011.html.

Species Identification Task Force

The SITF is under the supervision of the Judging Committee of the AOS with the mission of improving and simplify the processing of awards by ensuring that awarded species are correctly named. Members of the Task Force are not necessarily taxonomic experts but individuals who use reference material to confirm the identity of submitted awards. When the

SITF collective expertise and reference collections are not adequate, members of the task force turn to a network of qualified experts.

The task force replaced the previous, cumbersome identification and verification procedure, which often involved shipping plant material to a taxonomic expert. The SITF, uses today's electronic communications and high quality digital images to facilitate the process of identifying

awarded plants in a timely manner. Occasionally, when reference material is not available, willing taxonomic experts give opinions based on digital photographs. Rarely, awards will require in depth investigation by a taxonomic specialist, and SITF coordinates this. To find out more about the SITF, check out their site at <http://www.aosforum.org/sitf>.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

AOS Donations

At year's end we are inundated with requests for donations but who says that one must have lots of extra money to donate to an organization to make a difference!? What talent do you have to share with the American Orchid Society? We are so fortunate to have members with an abundance of talent and skills in many areas and they are helping us every day on our journey

toward a better AOS. We appreciate this so much.

We need additional folks with organizational ability, techie acumen, creative marketing and public relations talent, accounting, legal, writing competence and much more. If you have a talent to share and a little extra time to spare, we would welcome your assistance. The pay is zero - the satisfaction that you've filled a pressing

need in the American Orchid Society is priceless! Let our leadership hear from you soon.

Please stay in touch ... letting us know if there is anything we can do to make your AOS membership more meaningful.

Barbara Noe, Richmond, VA
AOS Membership Committee



Mark Your Calendars...

Wednesday, January 18, 2012: Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction, Yorba Linda Public Library, Community Room, Lower Level, 18181 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Auction begins at 6:30 p.m. Information: (909) 396-0172, dwarren@shipandshore.com

Friday-Sunday, February 10-12, 2012: Newport Harbor Orchid Society's Orchid Expo Show and Sale, "Romancing the Orchid," Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA. www.nhos.org

Tuesday, February 16, 2010: NHOS Annual Ron Capps Memorial Auction, Costa Mesa Community Center. Preview at 6:30 pm. Auction begins at 7:00 pm (note: this is the February meeting). www.nhos.org.

Friday-Sunday, March 9-11, 2012: San Diego County Orchid Society spring orchid show. Galaxy of Orchids. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108. Additional information is available at www.sdorchids.com.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18, 2012: 67th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, "Orchidelic," Earl Warren Showgrounds, Highway 101 and Las Positas. www.sborchidshow.com.



Richard Hara
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Fountain Valley, CA



Address Update Requested