



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

April 2012

President's Message

Aloha Members,

As the newsletter is running long this month, I will keep my piece short.

I was very happy to see all the guests and new members last month. I love seeing new faces.

Richard Hara, NHOS Treasurer, tells me that we are in good shape financially after the Show and Auction. And we seem to be winning awards like gang busters. Life is good.

Yours,
Linda Iannelli

April Speaker

Chen-Hao Hsu

"In Search of Orchids in Old & New World Habitats"

Chen-Hao Hsu acquired his first orchids at the age of ten while living in Taiwan. His passion for orchids and other plant groups continued after he returned to the US shortly thereafter.

Prior to studying ecology and statistics in graduate school at UC Davis, he interned one summer at Long-wood Gardens outside of Philadelphia and worked briefly with the orchid collection there.

Currently, his travels for work and pleasure have led him to many a destination

both domestic and abroad. His most recent travels have included Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, and central Africa where he observed a variety of orchids and other plants growing in vastly different habitats. His talk will be a photographic travel log through these regions.



My warm regards,
Joyce Nugent, 1st Vice President

The Roving Orchid Reporter Visits the Orchids of Queensland, Australia

In early March I spent two weeks in Australia, my first trip to the land down under. They were two unforgettable weeks of endless adventure, exploration, and wonderful surprises during visits to Melbourne, Ayers Rock in the Outback, Cairns, and Sydney. Though orchids were not the main goal of this trip, how could I not do a little orchid trekking? My travel companion was Meg Bentley, who was also eager to see orchids growing in situ. I should clarify that Meg, a long-time resident of Steamboat Springs, CO is not an orchid hobbyist, but she is an avid gardener and naturalist, and just so happens to be the other half of the "moms," as our children call us. Yes, Meg's son, Ryan, is married to my daughter, Francoise.



Orchid sleuthing with Chris Cobb, Bruce Gray and Meg Bentley.

In Melbourne we attended a meeting of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, where we saw some incredible *Pterostylis*, a native terrestrial orchid, plus a variety of Aussie *Dendrobiums*. The ANOS meeting is a separate story in itself, but it did serve as a great introduction for what would follow. By the time we got to Cairns, in Northern Queensland, I was hankering to see orchids growing in situ. Glimpsing at the tropical vegetation and breathing in the warm, humid air I knew we were in orchid country, but the question was how would we find the native orchids? Little did I suspect that the trees across from our hotel were full of various *Dendrobiums*. As we

were booking a tour to the Daintree Rainforest for the next day, I asked an employee at the local tourist office if there was an orchid society in Cairns, and after a quick Google search she gave me the name of a local orchid grower, Chris Cobb. Gathering up my courage I phoned Chris and was pleasantly surprised when he invited us to visit his orchid collection. And thus began a memorable day of orchid exploration, some of which I would like to share with you.

Roving cont'd on p. 2



Dendrobium biggibum hybridized by Chris Cobb.

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

Roberta Fox will present "Backyard species growing demystified (Hint: Those hybrid's ancestors are species)."

Roving cont'd from p. 1

We met two days later early Saturday morning. In a quick walk around the park and the port area across from our hotel Chris showed us at least three Dendrobiums, growing luxuriantly and quietly overhead including *D. teretifolium*, which the Aussies aptly call “pencil” orchids. As the morning passed we learned that Chris has been growing orchids for over twenty years and has a particular interest in hybridizing Dendrobiums, particularly *D. biggabum* (pronounced bye-gibbum. Thank you, Chris). A retired Australian Orchid Council Judge his orchids have won numerous awards, including the Australian Orchid of the Year in 1994-95, Chrtra. Renee Gerber ‘Timberlea’ AM/AOC-QOS. He also enjoys photographing orchids growing out in the bush. Besides Dendrobiums, Vandas, Phalaenopsis and many other warm growing orchids, his



Dracula blooming in one of Bruce Gray's greenhouses on the Atherton Tablelands

collection includes an impressive number of *Cymbidium canaliculatum*. In fact he lectured on *Cym. canaliculatum* at the 20th WOC in Singapore last November. He has also lectured in California on two occasions, including a talk at the 2002 Cymbidium Congress in Santa Barbara. He knows George Hatfield and has stayed with Weegie

Caughlin in Northern California. Small world, to quote a familiar saying.

I can't forget to mention that in the trees in his front yard, Chris grows a number of mounted Cattleyas and Dendrobiums. And along the driveway fence is an unbelievable hedge, yes, a hedge of Vanda (*Papilionanthe*) Miss Joaquim, the national flower of Singapore. Seeing Miss Joaquim in bloom totally “bowled” me over, and I have to admit to feeling a little bit of orchid envy, especially when Chris mentioned that he periodically “whacks back” the hedge to keep it in control!

After our visit with Chris and his family, we were on our way to meet Bruce Gray, a retired botanist from the National Australian Herbarium and the CSIRO, and a dedicated orchid hobbyist, whose family settled on the Atherton Tablelands in the 1880s from Scotland. The Tablelands, a high plateau situated an hour west and 1,000 meters (3,000 feet) above Cairns. In less than an hour, we went from hot, steamy temperatures to cool, cloud forest-like conditions where it freezes on occasion during the winter. Hence Bruce can grow all varieties of orchids from warm to intermediate to cool growing. And indeed he does grow thousands of orchids in four separate greenhouses from all over the world, many of which he has collected himself during trips to SE Asia, PNG (Papua New Guinea), South America, and naturally the Australian bush. I am not exaggerating when I say Bruce has the best private orchid collection I have seen. It was a fabulous two hours as we ambled through each greenhouse, marveling at the many flowering orchids some of which I had never seen before, and many that are rare in cultivation. As we were about to leave Bruce's home, Chris asked him to show us a copy of the December 2010 Or-

chids Australia, the publication of the Australian Orchid Council. Modestly, Bruce complied. This was the annual awards issue, and on the cover was a photo of Bruce's *Coelogyne rochussenii* 'Joy,' FCC/AOC (QLD) 90.8 points, that had an estimated count of 5400 flowers. It was awarded the “Best Species” for 2010. Unfortunately, Bruce did not show me the plant as it was not in bloom, but I'm happy to share a copy of the official photo with you.

It was a phenomenal day of orchid viewing, both in Bruce and Chris' growing areas as well as in the bush since Chris showed us many orchids growing in situ in trees that border the highway between Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands. Sadly for me, it was time to leave, but I promised myself to return during the spring blooming season, which is August to October, to experience the many Dendrobiums and *Cymbidium canaliculatum*s in full flower. And hopefully, Chris will share some of this magic in a future Southern California lecture tour. Thank you Chris and Bruce.

Nancy Benay

March 2012

Officers 2011-12

President

Linda Iannelli

First Vice President

Joyce Nugent

Second Vice President

Joe Rupp

Corporate Secretary

Karen Casey

Membership

Laura Perry

Treasurer

Richard Hara

Ex-Officio

Denise Claycomb

Board of Directors

Ha Bui

Tina Coombe

Guy Gottschalk

Tom Harrison

Michael Miranda

Margaret Nerio

Ann Rupp

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
Marcie.hague@cox.net

Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

San Diego Show Recap

We did well at the SD show. Here are our accomplishments:

- Best Cymbidium Trophy
- Best Paph. Alliance Trophy
- Best White Standard Cattleya Trophy
- Best Exhibit in Natural Setting - Winship Trophy (Amateur)
- SDCOS Cash Prize for Best Exhibit (Amateur)
- Orchid Digest Show Trophy
- AOS Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Orchid Exhibit

Once again I would like to thank Joe & Ann Rupp, Richard & Lilly Hara, Rick & Arlene Wells for their plants and their help on the set-up and take down days. We would not have been able to do this without their support!

Ha Bui

April Refreshments

Members from Patricia Harrison to Elizabeth Kishaba are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting.

Thank you!

AOS on the Move

On Monday March 26, the furniture was moved from the old location to our new offices at the Fairchild and we will then begin the process of settling in. Due to the commuting distance, a number of AOS employees will not be going with us which will require us to manage the day-to-day business to the best of our abilities. During this interim transition, members may experience a delay with regard to requests of the staff and it is recommended that contact be through the general email address TheAOS@aos.org or through the appropriate committee email addresses. We will do our best to keep these to a minimum. More information about the move and transition will be forthcoming in future issues of *Orchids* or from time to time on the AOS website.

The new AOS mailing address is: The American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156.

Lynn Fuller, Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Magazine Supplement

AOS has an excellent thesis on the genus *Cycnoches*, written by George Carr which will be published as the third AOS magazine supplement. It is a thorough and well-researched paper written by an expert on this genus of orchids that is becoming increasingly popular. We know it will be a valued addition to this volume of *Orchids*. It will mail with the August issue of *Orchids* and once again we appeal to the membership to make a small donation to help underwrite the cost of production.

If each member of the AOS donates merely \$2.00, we will have enough to publish this special 32-page supplement and cover the increased cost of mailing with the regularly scheduled magazine. Please go to the AOS website and click the 2012 Magazine Supplement link for a painless payment of \$2.00 through PayPal.® Of course you may also donate more than \$2.00.

Membership Corner

Spring time seems to bring out the enthusiasts! We have two more new members. **Bill MacCorkell** and **Andrea Stafford** joined our group at the last meeting and I am sure they enjoyed our guest speaker. Please make them welcome.

Laura Perry
Membership Chairman

From the Batchman Family, Tuesday, April 3, 2012

To all our friends, family, and orchid lovers,

We are sad to report that Loren passed away today around 12:00 pm. It was also his 72nd birthday. We'd like to thank you for all your support and well wishes during these hard times.

His loving family,
Nancy, Karl, Miki, and Erika

2012 March Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTELEYA	Catt Persepolis Splendor Dorothy Goldberg	Catt Hawaiian Wedding Song Joe Rupp	Schomburgkia Hybrid Kay Firebaugh	Richard Hara
CYMBIDIUM	Cym Dorothy Stockstill Earl & Joyce Hare	Cym Ron Squire Earl & Joyce Hare	Cym Langleyense Kay Firebaugh	Lilly Hara
DENDROBIUM	Den linguiforme Lynn Wiand	Den kingianum 'Blushing Princess' Gen Gunderson	Den amethystoglossum Chitsaya Winmaw	Nancy Benay
MAXILLARIEAE	Lycaste Abou First Spring Roberta Fox	Lycaste Abou First Spring Dick Hess	Lycaste lasioglossa Lynn Wiand	Bob Laughlin
ONCIDIUM	Blira Dumm Dumm Joe Rupp	Rossioglossum Rainbow Jester Kay Firebaugh	Psychopsis Kalihi Roberta Fox	Joyce Nugent
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phrag warszewiczianum Wallis Dick Hess	Paph maudiae Elisabeth Hau	Paph Red Baroness Dick Hess	Denise Claycomb
PHALAENOPSIS	Phal (No Name) Roberta Fox	Phal cornu-cervi Roberta Fox	Phal Polii-BD Joyce Nugent	Lynn Wiand
PLEUROTHALLID	Masdevallia Copper Angel Kayoko Nebrig	Masdevallia porphyrea Roberta Fox	Masdevallia Prince Charming Kay Firebaugh	Winn Winmaw
VANDA	Vanda Unknown Dorothy Goldberg	Angraecum leonis Roberta Fox	Aerangis fastuosa Lee Brandt	Bob Laughlin
MISCELLANEOUS	Phaius Microburst Joe Rupp	Sarcoglottis sceptrodes Merle Robboy	Calanthe argenteostriata Merle Robboy	Richard Hara
POINTS	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Cym. Ruby Eyes Rosemary Krumme			Lilly Hara
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Masdevallia Copper Angel Kayoko Nebrig			Tom Biggart



Mark Your Calendars...



ORCHID
AUCTION

May 17, 2012
Preview: 6PM
Auction Begins: 7PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum
& Botanic Gardens
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91106

www.sgvo.org

Presented by San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists

Laelia Fumila
Photo by Eric Hunt



Richard Hara
10749 La Terraza Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA



Address Update Requested