



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

March 2013

President's Message

Drum roll, music, and lots of applause, please, to everyone who helped with this year's Newport Harbor Orchid Expo and the annual Ron Capps Memorial Auction. Both events were successful, and we can now relax a bit and get back to growing our orchids.

My favorite aspects of the show are: One, the pleasure of reconnecting with so many friends in the local orchid community, some of whom I only see once a year; two, watching the displays come together and the various interpretations of the theme; and three, finally brightening up the winter season with all of the color, beauty, and variation of so many fabulous orchids.

March Speaker

Ron Kaufmann

"Life on the Rocks: the World of Rupicolous Orchids"

Ron Kaufmann is chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in South America and Asia. His talk will explore the habits and habitats of orchids that grow on rocks, with a focus on rocky settings in Brazil.

Most orchid growers are familiar with epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants) and terrestrials (plants that grow in the ground), but there are many species that grow on rocks and are known as rupicolous plants or lithophytes (literally "rock plants"). Ron's talk will describe locations and conditions where rupicolous orchids occur in the wild and offer some sugges-

Thank you to everyone involved for all of your time, care, hard work, and dedication that make these two big events so successful.

Nominations for officers and board members are coming up. Fortunately, this is not an overly long process with prolonged advertising. **Jim Miller** has agreed to head up this year's nominations committee. We are looking for new and energetic members to join the ranks of the officers and the board, so please consider becoming involved.

With spring (though it feels more like summer as I write this column) just around the corner, there is a lot happening in our growing areas—lots of spring bloomers putting out their buds, roots are beginning

tions for how to grow them in cultivation, using knowledge about the conditions they experience in nature.

Ron grows most of his orchids in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the temptation is always there.

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. He has been growing orchids for nearly 20 years, starting with a reed-stem *Epidendrum* and progressing to a diverse collection that contains mostly species orchids and quite a few rupicolous orchids.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the

Culture Class

We will hear from **Joe Rupp** on virus testing this month.

to show new growth; clean-up and moving plants to adjust to the new sun levels; not to mention repotting time. I've promised myself to be on top of the game this year, but I am already feeling behind. Where is the time, discipline, and the energy to live up to the resolution?

Come enjoy the March meeting. Ron Kaufmann is an outstanding speaker, and I can guarantee you that there will be lots of conviviality, good food, and beautiful plants on the display tables.

Nancy Benay, President

SDCOS Conservation Committee for almost 15 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded

over \$165,000 to support projects in 21 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and *Orchid Digest*, for which he also serves as an assistant editor.



Dr. Ron Kaufmann

Conservation of orchids and orchid habitat is an issue that concerns many growers and societies. Since 1996, the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee has been raising funds by selling donated plants and using the proceeds to support conservation projects. We have

Kaufmann, continued on page 2

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month

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

also developed a procedure for soliciting and evaluating applications for projects that match our goals. Ron will provide a bit of history about the SDCOS Conservation Committee, talk about how we raise and distribute funds, and discuss the lessons that have been learned in trying to support orchid conservation as a society.

If any member would like to join a pre-meeting dinner at 5:30 p.m. with Dr. Kaufmann at Mimi's, please RSVP Norito Hasegawa at (714) 458-5615 by Sunday, March 17th. The reservation will be under Newport Harbor Orchid Society.

The plant opportunity table will be provided by Andy's Orchids of Encinitas and will feature some of the orchids Dr. Kaufmann will be speaking about. Many of the plants will be mounted on wood convenient for hanging.

Norito Hasegawa, First Vice President

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Membership Corner

Congratulations to all of you who worked so hard on the auction. I have a great new plant as a result! We also are happy to welcome a new member who came to the auction, and her name is **Bev Lovejoy**. She participated happily and went home with a smile on her face. Glad to have you, Bev! See you soon.

Laura Perry, Membership Secretary

How To Water Your Orchids

By Christopher Croom

So, how does one water one's orchids? Here are a few tips to help make sure each plant is properly saturated enough to get their drink on:

- Water thoroughly. If your orchid is potted, imagine you are filling that entire, empty pot with water (at least).
- Water every plant from as many different directions as possible.
- Remember that the roots are doing most of the drinking.
- Water each plant once to let the water absorb, and then hit it again with the water a minute or two later to completely soak it.
- Remember that when dry, white sphagnum moss takes more water to saturate it than green sphagnum moss. Water according to the absorptive characteristics of your media.
- Mounted plants usually cannot be overwatered unless it's very cold and humid out, and often not even then.

Editor's Note: Reprinted with the permission of Christopher Croom, Editor, San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter.

Refreshments

Members from **Peter & Miko Yang** to **Simone & Alf Friend** are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting.

Thank you!

Recap: 2013 Annual Ron Capps Memorial Orchid Auction

There is not enough space on this page for the appreciation and thanks to all who helped make our 2013 auction such a success. The volunteers, year in and year out, show up to label plants, arrange the stage, make the right plants available to Merle for bidding, run plants to successful bidders and do all the other very important tasks that go into an event like this.

I am very grateful for all your help and to all of you who showed up to enjoy the auction and perhaps take home a great new addition to your collection. Also, a special thanks to all who donated plants for the auction. It would not be much without your contribution.

This year's gross, \$4,460, will help sustain the Society through the coming year.

Again, thanks for all your support.

Joe Rupp, Second Vice President

↓ Auction Action ↓



Orchid Conservation Alliance's Tour to Guangxi and Fujian in South China

The Orchid Conservation Alliance's Orchids in the Wild tour for Spring 2013 will be to Southern China and will be led by Holger and Wenqing Perner of Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology, Ltd. Holger last spoke to the NHOS in January 2012 on the orchids of China.

The 14-day tour begins on May 8 and ends on May 21, 2013. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Peter Tobias, OCA President: phone 760-518-5120 or email peter@orchidconservationalliance.org.

CSA Judging, Pacific South Region

As CSA is scaling back due to the lack of judges, the only locals hosting monthly judging are the Torrance Cymbidium Society.

Dates: February 6, March 13, April 3, May 1, and June 5.

Time: Plants have to be in at 6:30 p.m.

Location: J.H. Hull, 2080 W. 231st Street, Torrance CA.

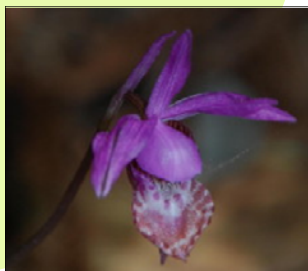
See Ha Bui for further information.

A Different Kind of Orchid Show (or Going Native)

Want to take your orchid experience a step further and see wild orchids growing in their native habitat? If you are in Northern California in March, plan to take a side trip to **Butano State Park**, located midway between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz, to see *Calypso bulbosa* in bloom.

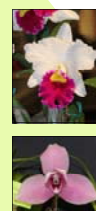
Rather rare in the area, the native purple calypso orchids are also called "Fairy Slippers" and have 2-inch

flowers, purple petals and sepals, and a patterned lip. Named after the Greek oceanid nymph, Kalypso, who lived in peaceful isolation in a luxurious cave on an island called Ogygia, the Calypso orchid prefers solitude in undisturbed forest regions. More information: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/Trail/TrailInfo.aspx>.



Newport Harbor Orchid Expo and Sale:

Bloomers were pretty in pink... and purple, yellow, orange...



No judging in February; please bring plants in March.



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, March 2 to Sunday, March 3: South Bay Orchid Show “Orchids-R-Easy”. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, 90502. www.southbayorchidsociety.com.

Friday, March 8 to Sunday, March 10: 68th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show “Orchids in Focus”. Earl Warren Showgrounds, Highway 101 and Las Positas. www.sborchidshow.com.

Monday, March 11: “Dividing and Repotting Large Orchids” with Doug Overstreet and Orchid Society of Southern California. 7:30 p.m. Meeting Hall, First Christian Church, 221 South Sixth Street, Burbank. www.orchidssc.org.

Saturday, March 16: Mariposa Garden Orchids Spring Festival. 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. 6664 South Street, Lakewood 90713. www.mariposagarden.com.

Thursday, March 21 to Saturday, March 23: AOS Trustees and Members Meeting. Note: This is being held in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society’s Annual Show. www.aos.org.

Friday, March 22 to Sunday, March 24: San Diego County Orchid Society’s International Show and Spring Sale “Orchids by the Sea”. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego. Notes: Go on-line for a coupon discounting admission costs. www.sdorchids.com.

Saturday, March 23: Orchid Digest Members Meeting. Scottish Rite Temple, San Diego, CA. 2:00 p.m. Note: This is being held in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society’s Annual Show. www.orchiddigest.org.

Saturday, March 23: Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society Annual Auction – Plymouth Village, Redlands. (909) 794-3306. <http://www.rsbcos.org>.



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Address Update Requested