



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

August 2013

President's Message

With so much happening this summer, where do I begin? Over fifty members and guests enjoyed a very lively and convivial evening at this year's Annual Installation and Awards Banquet on Tuesday, July 16, at Michael Miranda's. Kudos to the planning committee of **Phil Duke**, **Rose Nakabara**, and **Michael Miranda** for organizing the event.

The winners of the 2012-2013 ribbon judging awards were: Dr. **Merle Robboy**, first place; **Ha Bui**, second place; and **Lynn Wiand**, third place. Congratulations to each of you. And a special award was bestowed on **Phil Duke** for his culinary achievements. Hopefully he will wear his personalized chef's jacket at future general meetings. Enjoy **Tina Coombe's** photos of the evening elsewhere in the newsletter.

August has become the new February for

the Newport Harbor Orchid Society! By that I am referring to the fact that we are back at the Westminster Mall for the Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival on Friday, August 9, through Sunday, August 11, 2013.

In addition to vendor sales, other highlights of the festival will include a very large orchid art and bonsai exhibit all week-end long by the Vietnamese Orchid Society's Artists Group and an edible orchid art demonstration with flowers fashioned from sugar gum paste on Saturday, August 10, at 10:00 a.m. by Shaile Socher, a Huntington Beach based sugar artist. There is going to be a very special plant raffle on Sunday, August 11, at 2:00 p.m. The winner will take away \$1,000 of plants. To be eligible you need to purchase a ticket plus you must also be present at the raffle.

Another August highlight is that we are having Thomas Mirenda, the Smith-

Culture Class

I am pleased to announce that Mr. **Nico Goossens** will be giving the culture class this month. Nikko is an exceptionally knowledgeable grower. Tentatively he will be teaching us more than we ever knew before on water quality and whatever else we need to know to grow as well as Nikko. Come bring your questions and learn from one of our own experts

Guy Gottschalk

sonian's Curator of Orchids (what a fabulous title) speak at the August 20th meeting. Norito Hasegawa began organizing Tom's Southern California visit a year ago, and having heard him talk at this year's Orchid Digest Speakers' Day, the wait has been worth it. Trust me. You won't want to miss his lecture.

President continued on page 2

August Speaker Tom Mirenda

"Orchid Hunting to Central America"

Our speaker for August's meeting is Tom Mirenda from Washington D.C., an extremely dedicated professional orchidist. We tried to pin him down for over a year to fit in a week's worth of talks. By sharing him with other orchid societies we keep our costs down in sponsoring him as well as giving us an opportunity to hear him on different subjects at the other sharing societies.

A few of you wanted a travelogue type talk at NHOS. Since Tom travels the world (just back from Italy), we thought his "Orchid Hunting to Central America" would be adventuresome and interesting.

It is his most requested presentation, a journalistic travelogue type view of Tom's orchid journeys in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and

Panama. The talk highlights habitats of several orchid species, giving great insight into how to grow them. He will also be speaking at Orchid Society of Santa Barbara (contact Wayne Ferrell at wnferrell1@gmail.com) on August 21 and South Bay Orchid Society near Palos Verdes (contact Nick Braemar at orchid-nick@yahoo.com) on August 23.

Tom Mirenda has been the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution for the last 10 years. There he cares for and curates an extremely diverse col-

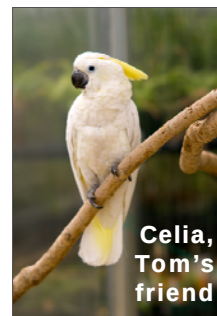


Tom
Mirenda

lection of orchid species and hybrids from all over the world. His position includes developing and producing huge educational exhibits using the collection plants. The exhibits last up to 4 months and are visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Trained originally as a marine biologist, Tom made the switch to plants and orchids in his late twenties while living in Hawaii. Since then he has worked with orchids at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and an extensive private collection at Greentree Estate in Long Island. Tom was also the floor manager at the New York International Orchid Show for many years during this period.

Mirenda continued on page 2



Celia,
Tom's
friend

Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month.
Culture Class at 7:00 p.m.
General Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

For the last 6 years, Tom has contributed two columns each month for *Orchids* magazine and is developing a new book based on those writings. Tom travels frequently around the US and internationally, making presentations to diverse audiences, from scientists to the general public, about orchid ecology, pollination biology, and strategies for orchid conservation.

He is passionate about seeking collaboration among the worlds of botanic gardens, the hobbyist community, commercial growers and scientists to work together

toward the goal of protecting orchids and their habitats. Currently working on a project to coordinate and centralize North American orchid conservation efforts, Tom hopes to extend the influence to other parts of the world where orchids are imperiled.

Any member of the NHOS who wishes to get to know Tom better can join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. before the meeting at Mimi's Restaurant across the shopping center facing Harbor Blvd. Please RSVP to Norito at 714-458-5615 by Sunday, August 18. Reservations will be under Newport Harbor Orchid Society.

The plant opportunity table will be supplied by Lico Orchids, a great supporter and member of our society. They have a varied collection and donate generously to our auction and are vendors at our annual Winter Show. They won the "Best in Theme" at our last show. They also provided our floral arrangement at our installation banquet. Bring the green stuff and support our society. See you there!

Thank you,

Norito Hasegawa
First Vice President

Refreshments

Members from **Lynn Wiand** to **Kay Firebaugh** are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting.

Thank you!

Officers 2013-2014

President

Nancy Benay

First Vice President

Norito Hasegawa

Second Vice President

Joe Rupp

Corporate Secretary

Margaret Nerio

Membership Secretary

Laura Perry

Treasurer

Richard Hara

Ex-Officio

Linda Iannelli

Board of Directors

Tina Coombe

Judy Dahle

Earle Hare

Tom Harrison

Michael Miranda

Anne Rupp

Dana Seelig

Chitsaya Winmaw

Winn Winmaw

Orchids Awake is published monthly. News deadline is the 25th of each month.

Editor: Vacant

Designer/Editor: Christine Aschan
caaschan@uci.edu | 714-553-2463

NHOS Website: www.nhosinfo.org

Web Designer: Marcie Hague
Marcie.hague@cox.net

Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

2014 Newport Harbor Orchid Expo Theme Selection

At the August 20th meeting members will vote on the theme for the 2014 Newport Harbor Orchid Expo. Thank you to members who took the time to think of possible themes:

The Incredible Edible Orchid, Orchid Round-Up, Orchid Desserts, Picture Perfect Orchids, Orchid Stampede, Orchid Cruise, Orchids are Made for You and Me, Orchid Paradise, The Orchid Caper, Orchid Addiction, Orchid Heaven, Orchid Mania, Orchid Odyssey, Orchid Obsession, Save the Orchids, The Mystery of Orchids, The Wonderful World of Orchids, and Orchids on the Red Carpet.

President continued from page 1

Looking ahead, September's meeting will feature Roy Tokunaga, of H&R Nurseries. Roy is credited with 30-plus years of experience in hybridization with several thousand hybrids to his credit. The annual greenhouse and garden tour will take place on Saturday, October 19. Reserve the date.

Dana Seelig, a new board member, has offered to organize the event. At the July 11th Board of Directors Meeting, the board voted to form an "investigatory committee" to look into the NHOS applying for tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Board members **Judy Dahle** and **Joe Rupp** have agreed to serve on the committee. One or two other members are needed for the committee; if you are interested, contact me at 949 552-7713 or at ndbenay@gmail.com.

Membership Corner

All quiet on the membership rolls. Thanks to all of you who have read my pleas and sent your funds. I have emailed all the others and hope it will soon be time to start the roster for the new year. Pu-lease, those of you who read this; let's finish this up!

ALSO, if anyone has changed their address, email address or phone numbers, please let me know as we will be working on the 2013/2014 Roster. Or if your information was incorrect in the last roster, please let us know that, as well, so we can make changes. If you have any questions, email me at kper-ry9507@aol.com or call (949) 642-4148.

Laura Perry, Membership Secretary

And finally, summer has a tendency to end before we are ready to see it go, so be sure to take advantage of the season by getting outdoors and enjoying the many special events around the Southland or a vacation away from home. Also this is the time to finish your repotting (or begin for the procrastinators in the group), keep your orchids properly watered and fertilized given our hot, dry summer weather so that you can enjoy your "bloomers" the rest of the year.

Looking forward to seeing you on August 20th,

Nancy Benay
President, 2012-2014



Orchidistas frolic at the 2013-2014 Installation Banquet



2013-2014 Board of Directors

Officers

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
Corporate Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Ex-Officio

Nancy Benay
Norito Hasegawa
Joe Rupp
Margaret Nerio
Laura Perry
Richard Hara
Linda Iannelli

Members

Three-year Term (expires 2016):
Dana Seelig, Earl Hare, Tom Harrison

Two-year Term (expires 2015):
Judy Dahle, Chitsaya Winmaw, Winn Winmaw

One-year Term (expires 2014):
Tina Coombe, Michael Miranda, Anne Rupp



Judging in August

Please remember to bring some nice plants to the August meeting for judging. The banquet was more about food and talk than plants.



Mark Your Calendars...

Beware the Date: Apparently the advertisement in the OC Register for the Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival has the wrong date. Oops; we are trying to change that but the correct dates are below!

August 3: Palomar Orchid Society Auction, The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos, CA 92078. More information: www.palomarorchid.org.

August 9-11: Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival by Newport Harbor Orchid Society, Westminster Mall, 1025 Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA. More information: www.nhos.org.

September 21-22: South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes. More information: www.southbayorchidsociety.com or 310-707-7097.

September 28-29: Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale, South Coast Plaza Village, 1631 West Sunflower (Corner of Sunflower and Bear), Santa Ana, CA 92704. More information: www.ocorchidshow.com.



Richard Hara
10749 La Terraza Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA



Address Update Requested