



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

March 2105

President's Message

To all Orchid Expo volunteers – THANK YOU! You're too many to name, but the Society did come together as needed. Very importantly, we had a strong Show Committee of really dedicated member-leaders that took the needed time over the past six months to do the behind the scenes planning necessary to bring the event about.

Richard Hara chaired the effort. **Ha Bui** managed the vendors, layout and t-shirt design. **Winn and Chitsaya Winmaw** ran the judging and judges' lunch. **Tina Coombe** and **Rosemary Krumme** coordinated the volunteers with Tina also doing the photography. The **Allens, Alex and George**, specialized in computer work.

John Cox was our videographer. **Phil Duke** took care of the banners. **Bill MacCorkell** assisted with plant registration. **Darla Miller** did the NHOS display. **Nancy** liaised with the AOS and various organizations. **Joe Rupp, Rick Wells**, and **Margaret Nerio** were in there scrambling as well. I'm not getting it all, chores or names, but thanks.

Another major fundraiser, the Auction went well. Thanks to **Joe Rupp**, committee, volunteers and members. Numbers will be available at the March general meeting, but the Society is doing OK financially. It's the fundraising that makes the speakers and more possible.

The San Diego Show is coming, March 27-29, just after our monthly meeting. We have had a reciprocal arrangement with the San Diego folks and we will put in an exhibit there. **Ha Bui** will design the display. (Thanks – again). We need blooming plants to put in the show. If the plants are manageable, bring them to the March meeting and let them go on to the show. Otherwise, contact Ha and we'll try to work something out. We will also need to haul plants South and then back to Orange County. If you can help with this, contact Ha.

And on we go,
Tom Harrison, President

March Culture Class

With spring, or maybe summer, just around the corner it's time to begin repotting your orchids.

Paula Butler will do a repotting demonstration at our March meeting. Both Paula and her husband **John** are long time orchid hobbyists and for the last four or five years have conducted the repotting workshops at the annual NHOS Orchid Expo.



March Speaker

Jim Cootes

"The Orchids of the 'Philippines'"

In the speaker's own words:

My interest in orchids started when I was still in primary school, back in the late 1950s. On my way, to and from school, I would see Australian native terrestrial orchids in the Spring and on occasions I would pick a bunch for Mum.

In the early 1960s we moved to a more urban area and the orchids were forgotten. One afternoon in mid 1975 I went to a shopping mall on my way home from work and there was a combined Sydney orchid society show in progress. I spent several hours walking around in stunned silence. Later I walked into a book shop and there was a book, about growing orchids in the Sydney region, which I purchased immediately and read from cover to cover, several times.

The bug had bitten me again and within a few months I had built a greenhouse and a glasshouse. Initially I grew hybrid cattleyas and some *Phalaenopsis*. A year or two later I went to the home of one of the members of a local orchid society. This old gentleman only grew species orchids, and on seeing the wonderful variation of the



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Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month

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

Membership Corner

We (the Editorial “we”) are pleased to introduce two new members who joined after the show and the last meeting.

Tim Culbertson, one of our esteemed auctioneers at last month/s auction, and **Jan Hann** who visited the show in Westminster Mall to take repotting classes and then spent some \$ at the auction.

Happy to have them on board.

Laura Perry
Membership Secretary

Refreshments

Members from **Merle & Georgette Robboy** to **Peter & Miko Yang** are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting.

Thank you!

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

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plants and flowers, I was hooked on species.

In 1980 I made my third trip to the Philippines, and this time I brought back a selection of species I had purchased from around the country. All were without names. Most of them, when they flowered, were able to be identified, but a small percentage remained unidentified.

This started me collecting information on Philippine orchids, which in time became a database. In 1984 was the publication of *Orchidiana Philippiniana*, and I thought that with this huge book I would be able to identify those plants I had without names. No such luck. My library grew to considerable size and I was becoming quite good at identifying orchids, particularly those species from southeast Asia.

A chance meeting with Dr. Mark Clements, from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Canberra, started me on the road to naming species by myself. In Dr. Clements' office he had microfiches of the herbarium specimens, from many of the major herbaria. I was allowed to look through these, and I was even able to copy

them for further reference at home. Dr. Clements also encouraged me to start naming new species, and I named the first *Amesiella monticola*, with David Banks, in 1994.

Since then I have named over 40 species, by myself or with colleagues. The idea was put to me by several people that I should do a book on Philippine species orchids and in 2001 my first book *The Orchids of the Philippines* was published. Ten years later my second book *Philippine Native Orchid Species*, saw the light of day. In late 2014, my co-author and I approached the publisher of Natural History Publications (Borneo) offering to do the Philippine Dendrobieae volume of this beautiful series. This book was published in January 2015.

The society welcomes anyone who wishes to join Jim Cootes for dinner at Mimi's Restaurant across from the Costa Mesa Community Center on March 17th at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Norito at 714-458-5615 by Monday, March 16.

Norito Hasegawa
First Vice-President



2015 Orchid Expo Display



Sherman Gardens Acquires Ron Dier's Orchid Collection

Among the numerous advantages to being an orchid hobbyist in Southern California is the number of resources that we have access to including orchid societies, botanical organizations, and gardens such as the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens and the LA Arboretum. Much closer to home, though, is the Sherman Library & Gardens, which is a beautiful horticultural retreat located on the PCH in the heart of Corona del Mar that features plant life of the desert regions to exotic vegetation of tropical climates.

Their orchid collection, which numbered about 600 orchids, has grown exponentially thanks to Ron Dier, long time NHOS member, who moved last fall with his partner Jock Stalker from their home in Laguna Beach to a ranch on the Central Coast and generously donated approximately 1,000 orchids to Sherman Gardens. Not only is the number of orchids significant, but so is the quality and diversity of species and hybrids that characterized Ron's collection, many of them huge specimen plants.

In a recent newsletter, Darla Miller, who is the Orchid Curator at the Gardens and an NHOS member, describes the process of integrating Ron's orchids into the collection. "Transporting the collection from Ron's multi-level property to the Gardens was a major undertaking given Ron's two-week deadline. "It took multiple trips with multiple trucks and volunteers to transport the orchids to their new home."

The next challenge was finding room in the greenhouse so that the plants could be catalogued, tested for virus, groomed and re-potted. The blooming plants are on display throughout the Gardens and the tropical conservatory, which in itself is lovely to visit.

You will spend a lovely morning or afternoon strolling through the various gardens. Stop by to say hello to Darla, whose "office" is tucked away in a corner of the greenhouse adjacent to the Conservatory. Plus, if you are hungry you can linger over an elegant lunch at the Café Jardin, which is operated by Pascal. It makes for a great day, and all of this is in our backyard.

Nancy Benay

2015 Ron Capps Memorial Auction

Thanks to all who helped with our February auction. The whole process went very smoothly; everyone had a good time and a lot of attendees went home with some real treasures.

Our society is fortunate to have a great relationship with many local vendors who are happy to support us. *Cal Orchid, Lico, Sunset Valley, Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Tuyets, Casa de las Orquideas, Kawamoto, Andy's* as well as other growers who donated at the Orchid Expo.

Members donated plants as well, which helped a great deal in boosting our revenue.

We also were able to obtain gift cards from *Green Thumb* and *Armstrong Nurseries*. *Orange County Farm Supply* generously donated six bags of bark and some fertilizer. *Agdia* donated virus test kits as well.

It was also great to see several non member guests in attendance. A big thank you to Tim Culbertson for lend-

ing his knowledge and skills as an auctioneer. We grossed \$4,167 and likely will net about \$3,400 after expenses. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you to all for making this a special event.

Joe Rupp
Second Vice-President

Culture Corner

Treating Scale & Bugs

Controlling scale in an orchid collection can be problematic, and this year it seems to have been worse with our heat and drought. There are a number of good insecticides and pesticides on the market that you can use to eliminate the problem.

You may want to try the following regimen suggested by Dr. Phyllis Prestia, AOS and CSA Training Judge, and NHOS member as she has had success in "debugging" her orchids by using alternating applications of several pesticides, even if they have similar ingredients.

These include: Bayer Advanced 2 in 1 Systemic Rose & Flower Care (liquid), Merit 2F Insecticide, Prokoz Zenith 2F Insecticide, and Orthene 97 Spray. The secret is to drench your plants and to apply regularly depending on the season. During the winter apply every two months and in the summer every six to eight weeks depending on conditions.

Another tip from Phyllis: if you grow "rainforest" orchids that require a very moist environment such as *Angraecoids*, *Masdevallias*, *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*, she suggests using a three-part recipe for the growing medium: equal parts of fine fir bark, perlite, and sphagnum moss that has been cut up into small pieces.

Editor's note: If you have any good cultural tips please submit them for publication in the newsletter.)

2015 Orchid Expo Display





Mark Your Calendars...

Monday, March 9: Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Auction.

Event will be held at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall, 6201 E. Willow St., Long Beach, CA. More information: www.lbaos.com.

Friday-Sunday, March 13-15: 70th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Event will be held at Earl Warren Show Grounds: 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. More information: www.sborchidshow.com.

Friday-Sunday, March 27-29: "Around the World with Orchids" San Diego County Orchid Society. Event will be held at Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA. More information: David Hoffmaster @ 760 632-8220 or davehoff5@yahoo.com.

Saturday, June 13: 13th Annual Orchid Digest Speakers' Day Program. "Orchid Potpourri." Speakers include: Steve Beckendorf, Marc Hachadourian, Harold Koopowitz, Steve Hampson, Peter Lin. More information: www.orchiddigest.org.



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