



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

March 2015

President's Message

Happy Spring!

The Philippines is not on my bucket list, but I loved the presentation that we enjoyed last month by an amazingly knowledgeable expert, Jim Cootes — slides with facts about flowers and their environment. I'm glad that he had other speaking engagements here in southern California.

Flying him out from Australia is not cheap and it's good to (at least partially) share costs, and it's good that someone of his caliber gets to a number of folks. The best thing, though, is that we can do it because we have put in the work at the shows and auctions. Thanks to **Norito** for hooking us up; thanks to you all for paying the bill.

Rats! I had noticed this winter that a number of my greenhouse orchids had been attacked by some vigorous pest that had been biting off new growth and particularly flowers and flower spikes. Very discouraging. I thought snails; grasshopper, maybe.

Then I noticed a sizable hole in the gravel to the inside of the greenhouse, rat-sized. I stopped it up and put a brick there. I knew it was rats at that point.

They usually stay in the general garden and decimate the veggies. I have gone to planting beets and potatoes a lot. They don't dig out the roots. Potato leaves are toxic, too. This winter I planted beets; too edible, lousy harvest. OK, I digress.

Culture Class

Dennis Olivas will give a basic "Orchids 101" talk.

They, the rats, attacked the flowers — war, no more Mr. Nice Guy — a trip to Home Depot, peanut butter, traps and poison. The eight traps with peanut butter produced five dead rats in five days. The poison trap was planted in the greenhouse, carefully sealed against tampering by non-rat animals. The rat corpses, perhaps, will be found as they rot. We'll see, or rather smell, later. The flowers on the Schomburgkias and Cattleyas, I'll have to wait to next year to smell.

May your garden pests die quickly,

Tom Harrison, NHOS President

April Speaker

Dennis Olivas "Diseases and Pests"

Dennis Olivas was born on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. As a lad, he helped his mom grow her orchids and got hooked. He joined the Future Farmers of America and his project was raising and selling these beautiful and exotic plants. In 1980 he moved to the mainland and swore off the orchid family.

This did not last for long, as he was introduced to Rod McLeallan's Acres of Orchids. From there his whole life became one downward spiral. First he filled his home with upwards of 6,000 plants. Later he leased greenhouse space for his ever-burgeoning orchid collection. A glutton for punishment, Dennis let his collection

grow to overflowing a 3,000 sq. ft. greenhouse in Half Moon Bay. With the help of close friends from the Bay Area, Napa and Fresno, Dennis moved his obsession to a greenhouse in Daly City in November of 2013. He found himself in a whole new ball game, learning how to raise orchids without heat but in an area that gets a lot of sun and higher temperatures.

Dennis was President for the Peninsula Orchid Society, San Francisco Orchid Society, Diablo View Orchid Society and the Santa Cruz Orchid Society. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society. Dennis belongs to over 14 orchid societies and tries to assist them whenever possible

Give a big "Aloha" to Dennis Olivas. I approached Dennis to talk to us about a year ago and the answer was wait till I retire—well, he retired on September 1, 2014, and so I signed him up originally for last September, but he was unable to come due to an accident. There is no rest for the wicked, they say, and the way things are going, he'll be busier than when he was duly employed.



NHOS hasn't had a proper talk on "Diseases and Pests" so Dennis will tell us about these important subjects, and he'll do a quick cultural session on "Orchids 101." This talk

will contain some basic pointers on the culture of orchids at 7:00: p.m. Dennis will provide the plant table and bring plants for sale. Please support him.

We'll take Dennis out to dinner at 5:30 p.m. on meeting night at Mimi's Restaurant facing Harbor Blvd. across from our meeting place, but please RSVP Norito by Sunday, April 19. Please bring some friends who need some basic know-how on raising orchids. It'll be a great meeting. Even the experienced grower can use a few hints, as well.

Norito Hasegawa, First Vice President

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

I'm happy to report that three new members joined at the March meeting: **Sherrie LeVar**, **Butch Arciaga**, and **Belen Cordova**. Hope they enjoyed the terrific presentation this month, and they keep coming to see us.

I very much enjoyed **Paula Butler's** culture class on repotting, and now I'm deep into a major overhaul of my own. Hold a good thought.

Laura Perry
Membership Secretary

Refreshments

Members from **Irma Adams** to **Simone & Alf Friend** are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting.

Thank you!

Officers 2014-2015

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

Orchid Culture Checklists

There is no shortage of orchid culture tips available on the internet. One of the most useful is a year-long culture checklist prepared a number of years ago by James Rose of Cal Orchid, and Ned Nash, former AOS Educational Director. Though too long to reprint in the newsletter, you can easily access the checklists on the AOS website: <http://aos.org/Default.aspx?id=182>.

Fred Clarke also provides some very useful culture information for *Catasetinae* and *Cattleyas*:

<http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/html/culture.html>.

Incidentally, your *Catasetums*, *Mormodes* and *Cynoches* should now be putting out new growth and roots, and the inclination is to begin watering, but to quote both Fred and Phyllis Prestia:

Watering should wait until the new growth has well developed new roots. This means you should let the new roots grow to an approximate length of 3-5" before you begin watering. Let me emphasize this point. Wait to water until the new roots are well developed. The waiting to water is not easy, my natural instinct is to begin watering when I see new growth, but I have learned through trial and error that it is better to wait to water than start watering too soon.

Happy Growing,

Nancy Benay, Editor, *Orchids Aweigh*



Please mark your calendars and save the date:
Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Orchid Digest Speakers' Day:

Orchid Potpourri

Ahmanson Classroom in the Botanical Center
at the
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical
Gardens, San Marino, CA

12:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Expert Lectures-Orchid Displays-Orchid Sales-
Silent Auction-AOS Judging-Dinner

Scheduled Speakers:

Steven Beckendorf—

"Searching for Orchids in Southeastern Peru"

Marc Hachadourian—

"Orchid Species You Should Not Try to Grow!"

Harold Koopowitz and Steven Hampson—

"Madagascar: Leaping Lemurs and Orchids"

Peter Lin—

"Trending Phalaenopsis Novelty Hybridizing"

Distinguished Orchid Digest Lecture:

Carol Woodin, "An Artist on the Orchid Trail"

Tickets:

\$65 (\$80 at door) for afternoon seminars, wine and
cheese happy hour, dinner and evening entertain-
ment.

Reservations available online at
www.orchiddigest.org

or contact Simone Friend at Orchidsimonef@aol.com or
call (562) 431-1247. When contacting by e-mail, please
include phone number, e-mail address and mailing
address.

There is limited space, so don't wait to buy your ticket.

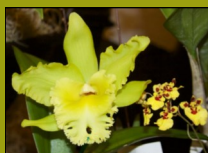
NHOS on Facebook and YouTube

We encourage all NHOS members and orchid enthusiasts to "Like" our Facebook page: Newport Harbor Orchid Society. Invite your friends to "Like" us as well. The NHOS posts featured speaker information, show photos, prizewinning orchids (mainly Ha Bui's), and various orchid events. It's also a great way to get the word out about the society's activities.

Thanks to George Allen, our talented tech guru, the NHOS has an official YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx-wg5IF17rXQJK3DIM3LIA>.

If you wish to relive moments from February's show, John Cox, member and videographer, has created a number of videos for everyone to enjoy. Thanks, John. Incidentally, there are also several other videos from earlier shows for you to enjoy.

NHOS Show 2015 Photo Gallery



March 2015 Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Guaranthe skinneri v. coerulescense 'Orchidglade' Richard Hess	LC Mamies 'Delight' x LC Bertha Boeing Richard Hess	Schomburgkia splendida Kay Firebaugh	Kayoko Nebrig
CYMBIDIUM	Cym Pacific Express 'Kayoko' Barbara Livingston	Cym Cariga x C Vogelsang Bill MacCorkell	Cym Ha Bui Earl Hare	Lynn Wiand
DENDROBIUM	Den aggregatum (lindleyii) Richard Hess	Den (pink nobile) Unk Kay Firebaugh	Den (white nobile) Unk Kay Firebaugh	Phillis Prestia
EPIDENDRUM	Encyclia expansa Merle Robboy	NA	NA	Barbara Livingston
MAXILLARIEAE	Lycaste Abou Sunset Rick Wells	Lycaste kooleana Espie Quinn	M curtis Lynn Wiand	Lisa Humphreys
ONCIDIUM	Maxillaria picta* Kayoko Nebrig	Onc maculatum Barbara Livingston	Ada aurantiaca Lynn Wiand	Janice Krause
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Paph nitens Lynn Wiand	Phrag warcewiczianum x wallissii Richard Hess	Paph malipoense Richard Hess	Joe Rupp
PHALAENOPSIS	Phal Unknown Bill MacCorkell	Phal Unknown Rosemary Krumme	Phal Unknown Nancy Benay	Joe Rupp
PLEUROTHALLID	NA	NA	NA	NA
VANDA	Papilionanthe (Vanda) teres Nico Goossens	Vandofinetia White Crane Richard Hess	Neostylis Pinky Starry Elisabeth Hau	Nancy Benay
MISCELLANEOUS	Phaius Microburst 'Orchtoberfest' AM/AOS Joe Rupp	Dendrophylax funalis Nico Goossens	Dendrochillum tenellum Lynn Wiand	Nancy Benay
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
NOVICE	Phalaenopsis Unknown John Cox	Phalaenopsis Unknown John Cox	Phalaenopsis Unknown John Cox	Janice Krause
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points		Dendrobium aggregatum (lindleyii)	Richard Hess	Jim Cootes

*Note: Maxillaria picta was judged in the Oncidinae section.



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, April 11: AOS Pacific South Regional Judging. Starts at 10:00 a.m. Event will be held at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA. More information: 626-405-2100.

Wednesday, April 15: Orange County Orchid Society's Orchid Mounting and Potting Workshop. Starts at 7:00 p.m. Event will be held at Yorba Linda Public Library Community Room, Lower Level, 18181 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda, CA. More information: 714-491-6660, Nohline L'Ecuyer.

Friday, April 17: Orchid Odyssey at San Diego Zoo. San Diego Zoo, San Diego, CA. Third Friday of every month. More information: <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/collectiondetail8.html>.

Saturday, May 16: Casa de las Orquideas. 14th Annual Super Seedling Sale. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92705. More information: 858-755-7572 or casa@orquideas.com.

Thursday, May 21: San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists' Annual Orchid Auction. Preview at 5:00 p.m. Auction begins at 7:00 p.m. Event will be held at Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91106. More information: www.sgvo.org.

Saturday, June 13: Orchid Digest 13th Annual Speakers' Day Program. Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA. 12:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. More information and registration: www.orchiddigest.org.



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Address Update Requested