



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

August 2016

President's Message

Wow! July was a fun and busy month for the Newport Harbor Orchid Society! We had the installation dinner in **Michael Miranda's** beautiful tropical garden with wonderful Thai food and amazing side dishes and desserts from our members!

Thank you to Michael for hosting, **Phil Duke** for setting up the food (he was even coordinating after he took a "spill" on his motorcycle!), **Rose Nakabara**, **Kay Firebaugh** and **Chitsaya Winmaw** for the beautiful centerpieces and behind-the-scenes organizing! **Winn Winmaw** made some fun paper craft decorations to add to the festivities!

Everything ran smoothly thanks to all of our wonderful members. It was a relaxing evening under the stars. **Merle Robboy** swore in our new 2016-2017 board. A BIG THANK YOU in advance for all the support and energy the new board will be

bringing to the next year's programs.

Our Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival was a successful event thanks to all the volunteers and the integral leaders: **Ha Bui** and **Richard Hara**! **Tina Coombe**



helped coordinate the volunteers and worked double shifts to be sure everything was running smoothly in **Rosemary Krumme's** absence (Rosemary is recovering from foot surgery).

Our vendors were awesome this year! There was a wide range of plants and gar-

Culture Class | 7:00 p.m.

Our speaker, **Carol Buele**, will conduct the culture class. Please join us.

den products! We had our usual amazing vendors that have been with us for years as well as new vendors this year.

Ron DeWilde, our new 1st VP, has been working diligently with Norito and booking future speakers for 2016-2017! Our August speaker is Carol Buele, and she will be speaking on "The Genus *Sarcocylus*, Its Charm and Ease of Growth". I am looking forward to hearing her lecture and learning more about her background with orchids and AOS judging. She is very involved in the orchid world and will be an interesting speaker for the start of our new year!

See you at the August Meeting!

Darla Miller
NHOS President

August Speaker

Carol Buele

"The Genus *Sarcocylus*, Its Charm and Ease of Growth"

The featured guest speaker for our August NHOS meeting will be Carol Buele, whose talk is entitled "The Genus *Sarcocylus*, Its Charm and Ease of Growth".

Carol first began growing orchids in 1992 when she moved from NYC to Studio City in the San Fernando Valley. She quickly found out how confronting growing orchids outdoors can be in the harsh conditions she found there. With such extremes as temps ranging from 28F to 111F and humidity as low as 7%, the challenge is formidable.

Her quest then became to seek the proper culture for orchids for this tough environment and to find out what plants fit the test

of prospering and blooming there and which will not.

In her search to find the best plants for her growing area Carol came to recognize several genera known to flourish outside Southern California that also fit the profile for her difficult conditions. Perhaps most notably, she found *Sarcocylus* to be a suitably durable and particularly rewarding plant for ease of growth in "The Valley".

Sarcocylus is a charming smaller flowered genus native to Australia. While they are often thought to be a superb undergrowth plant for standard *Cymbidiums*, they can also be grown alongside *Cattleyas* and any other outdoor growing temperate climate range orchid. They can become beautiful specimen plants and are now available in a wider range of colors due to intensive hybridized breeding.

Other plants Carol has found that have resilience for her Valley conditions include: the Japanese orchid called *Neofinetia falcata*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Dendrobium*, *Lycaste*, Asian *Cymbidium* and *Rosiglossum*.

Carol is an AOS Probationary Judge, a member and 1st VP of the Orchid Society of Southern California. She serves on the Board of the Orchid Digest and is a member of the committee that creates the display for the Huntington Garden Society's annual October Orchid Show.

Carol's accolades include an Emmy Award for Costume Design. Now semi-retired, Carol has begun a new creative business venture manufacturing *Neofinetia* and *Cymbidium* presentation pots. Her company is entitled "Nichi Bachi by Beule". *Nichi Bachi* means "decorative pots". Carol will be bringing some of her pots for members to see examples of her work at the meeting and she will be sharing her artistic pots during the Culture Class as well.

Dinner with the Speaker

Please RSVP to Darla Miller by Monday, August 15 if you plan to attend dinner with the speaker. Questions and RSVP: Darla.miller@earthlink.net.

Note: Location may change. Dinner reservations are at 5:30 p.m. Please be prompt so we can get the speaker to the meeting on time.

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

It is still DUES time. So many of you have sent in your \$ and I do thank you. We always want to get a new roster out in early fall so if you want to be on that list, please send your checks very soon. Of course, at the next meeting would be fine, but time is running out.

Remember: \$20.00 for single membership and \$25.00 for two people at the same address. Plus \$5.00 if you want a hard copy of the newsletter. It is amazing how many people now share their email addresses.

Welcome, too, to our new member, Curtis Gean, all the way from Sanger, CA. He promises to make some of the meetings, by the way.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Laura Perry
Membership Chairman

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Orchid photos courtesy of Tina Coombe.

WANTED: A New Place for Membership Meetings!

There are plans to close our community center, January 2017. The committee is working hard to find a future venue for our Newport Harbor Orchid Society meetings. If you have any ideas, please contact any of our committee members: Judy Dahle, Winn Winmaw, Chitsaya Winmaw, Tom Harrison and Darla Miller.

We would need a place that could hold 100 members, multiple tables for food, plants and raffles, a kitchen (if possible) and a room for our orchid culture class. If you have venue ideas and/or are interested in helping on this committee, please contact Darla at darla.miller@earthlink.net.

Year-end Judging Awards

Ribbon Judging

1st place Espie Quinn

2nd place Ha Bui

3rd place Joe Rupp

Judging

1st place Guy Gottschalk

2nd place Roberta Fox

3rd place Winn Winmaw

Thank you to everyone who brought their plants to be judged. And thank you to everyone who helps with judging the plants.

Lily Hara

Another Thank You to the Orchid Show Committee!

I wanted to give another thank you to the whole Orchid Show Committee. Everyone on this team is enthusiastic, creative and generous with their time to make this event possible. They meet once a month to review, plan and organize flyers, advertising, themes, vendors, meetings with the mall, etc.

These events help us raise funds to offer our membership wonderful speakers and programs throughout the year.

The team members include: Alex and George Allen, Ha Bui, Tina Coombe, John Cox, Judy Dahle, Ron DeWilde, Phillip Duke, Richard and Lily Hara, Tom Harrison, Jan Hennessey, Rosemary and Joe Krumme, Bill MacCorkell, Margaret Nerio, Joe and Ann Rupp, Dana Seelig, Rick and Arlene Wells, Chitsaya and Winn Winmaw.

A BIG THANK YOU for your efforts!

Darla Miller

Refreshments

Members from **Norito Hasegawa** through **Norman Nakanishi** are asked to provide refreshments for the meeting. Thank you!

Summer 2016 Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival

The NHOS 2016 Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival was a huge success. Thanks to the hard work of the Festival Committee and all the many people who volunteered to work at the festival. Thank you also to our many regular vendors and some new ones. This year we invited several nurseries to join us and we hope they liked being part of our festival.

Again, thank you to our many volunteers, vendors and everyone who attended the 2016 Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival.

Please mark your calendars for February 10, 11 and 12, 2017 as these are the dates of the 2017 NHOS February Orchid Expo: "Ride the Orchid Wave". It will again be at the Westminster Mall (in the Macy's wing) in Westminster, Orange County. Plans are already underway and the committee is working hard to make the Expo even better in 2017.

Check out our NHOS Newsletter for more info at www.nhosinfo.org. More information about the Expo will be available there each month.

Rosemary Krumme



Careful, Don't Step on the Orchids!

This past spring I conducted a 10-day native orchid trek through Provence and Southwestern France for twelve members of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. I designed the itinerary to balance orchid hunting with the culture, history, cuisine, wines and traditions of these two beautiful regions, and I could easily fill pages about the orchids and our adventures. But, since space is limited, I'm going to focus on our visit to l'Etang de Bolmon, a particularly interesting site for the diversity of its orchids and other flora and fauna, its geographic location and what it symbolizes from a conservation point of view.

But first a few factoids about France's native orchids. Needless to say, most people are surprised to learn that native orchids grow all over France, and Europe, for that matter. There are about 150 species that have been identified in the hexagon, and, no, these are not at all the exotic orchids that most of us know and have growing in our collections. Rather they are all terrestrial and, except for the slipper orchid *Cypripedium calceolus*, aka the "Sabot de Vénus", as the French call this species. They look nothing like their exotic cousins though they are equally fascinating and beautiful.

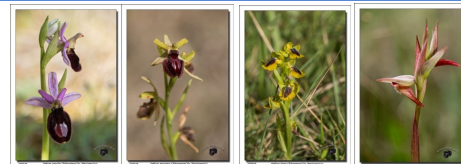
For example, *Ophrys* (pronounced o-freez) resemble bees and other insects and can be found all over the Mediterranean, from Western Europe to the Middle East. The genus *Orchis*, another favorite, includes an extensive number of species, some of which look like colorful monkeys and men when you study the individual flowers up close. Seeing these wonders in bloom is to understand better the concept of deceptive pollination.

On Saturday, April 23, our first full day of exploration, we headed to l'Etang de Bolmon-Patafloux, a large bay west of Marseille and a half hour north of the Mediterranean Sea where various species of *Ophrys* abound. With the unusually mild winter in Provence I was concerned whether these enchanting flowers would still be in bloom. As luck would have it, April turned out to be rather cool so the *Ophrys* and lots of other plants were in full bloom and very abundant. Our guides for the day were Annie and Michel Pinaud, members of the SFO PA-



CA, which is one of the many regional groups that are under the umbrella of the national Société Française d'Orchidophilie. Annie and Michel are a delightful couple who have been studying and documenting the native orchids of the Bouches du Rhône for the last twenty years. They are a fount of knowledge and without them and the other regional orchid specialists who animated our treks, the trip would have not had the same character and charm.

Our rendez-vous location was a parking lot next to the entrance of the town dump of Châteauneuf-les-Martigues located in a heavy industrial zone near oil refineries, hydrocarburant storage tanks, and Marseille's international airport. And let me not forget to mention the pipeline belonging to Total Oil and Gas that runs through the bay. Hardly your traditional orchid site! Yet this is a wetlands area rich in native flora and fauna that is a success



story thanks to various conservations groups: Natura 2000, an EU network, whose goals have been to assure the long-term survival of Europe's threatened species and habitats, as well as by the local coastal conservancy groups.

We were delighted to see three different genus and seven or eight different species including *Ophrys scolopax* (the bee orchid), and *Ophrys pseudocolopax* (pseudo bee orchid), "forests" of *Ophrys lutea*, easily recognized by its bright yellow flowers, and *Ophrys bertoloni* (also called *Ophrys aurelia* in this area of Provence because of its proximity to the Aurelian Highway), *Ophrys passionis*, *Serapias vomeracea*, *Serapias parviflora*, and *Himantoglossum robertianum* with their seedpods. "Robertianum", as they are called, is usually the first of the native orchids to bloom in Provence and is so common throughout the PACA region that you soon become very blasé when you see them.

French native orchids generally bloom from December (in Southern France) to October, depending on the region so if you are planning a trip to the French provinces during the extended blooming season there is every chance that you can include an orchid hike as part of your itinerary. It's fun, the terrain is usually friendly, and since it is France there is every chance that you will be near a good restaurant to conclude your trek with a great meal and glass of wine!

Happy trekking!

Nancy Benay
Photo credits: Michel Pinaud

Installation Banquet: Food, folk, flora & fun!





Mark Your Calendars...



Saturday, September 17 to Sunday, September 18, 2016: Orchid Show and Sale. South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA. More information: www.southbayorchidsociety.com.

Saturday, September 24 to Sunday, September 25, 2016: Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale. South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana, CA. More information: www.ocorchidshow.com or (949) 416-0505.

Friday, October 21 to Sunday, October 23, 2016: Elegant Orchids 2nd Annual International Orchid Show and Sale (in conjunction with the AOS Fall Members' Meeting). The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108. More information: Huntington.org/OrchidShow. Also, volunteers are needed (free admission to the show!): www.signup.com/go/kV6Q9S.



Friday, October 21 to Sunday, October 23, 2016: American Orchid Society Fall Members' Meeting (in conjunction with the Orchid Show). The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108. More information: www.AOSFALL2016.com or <https://www.aosfall2016.com/society-newsletter/>.

Check out our NHOS website for the latest information on orchid and other botanical events: <http://nhosinfo.org/events/>.



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