



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

Costa Mesa Senior Center | 695 W. 19th Street | Costa Mesa, CA 92627

May 2021

President's Message

I hope you all enjoyed the NHOS April Zoom meeting as much as I did. Our speaker, Carol Siegel, gave us an orchid talk that was full of energy and very entertaining. We learned about orchids from all over the world that thrive under severe growing conditions. Thank you, **Julie Ford**, for arranging our monthly speakers.

In addition to the Sherman Library & Gardens Plantorama on July 17 and 18, NHOS will resume our Summer Orchid and Exotic Plant Festival at Westminster Mall. The target dates for this event are August 13 through August 15. So far, we have Tuyet's Orchids, SVO and Cal Orchids to anchor the event.

Thank you, **Ha Bui** and **Richard Hara**, for gathering input and coordinating with the Mall Management. **Rosemary Krumme** will be coordinating the volunteer program for both events. Please sign up with her to volunteer.

Please register with **Joe Rupp** if you want to sell plants at the Sherman Library & Gardens and/or the Westminster Mall shows.

Once we have all the information, NHOS will announce the theme for our July Annual Banquet at **Michael Miranda's** place.

Please e-mail me your blooming orchid pictures for our show-and-tell program for the May meeting. My e-mail address is winn_winmaw@yahoo.com. I have been posting pictures from our show-and-tell program on NHOS Facebook after the monthly meetings so others can enjoy as well.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our May Zoom Meeting!

Winn Winmaw, NHOS President

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

General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

May Speaker

Tom Mirenda

"Tom's African Adventure"

Tom Mirenda has been cultivating plants since his early childhood and lives to create beauty with plants in Botanic Garden settings. Originally trained as a Marine Biologist, Tom moved to Hawaii in his early 20s to pursue a MB career and worked on the trophic relationships of denizens of coral reefs in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (Midway and French Frigate Shoals).

There he realized he was better suited to Horticultural pursuits and took positions at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden and at the incredible Greentree Estate in Long Island, where he cared for a first-class Orchid collection. Eventually Tom accepted the Orchid Collection Specialist Position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC where he cultivated and curated a huge, diverse orchid collection.

Tom co-authored *The Book of Orchids* with two scientists from Kew Gardens. He has done speaking tours in the British Isles and presented at the World Orchid conferences and several IOCC and AOCs



on conservation topics. Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and former chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He continues his support of orchid conservation here, and around the world.

Several years ago Tom took a major gamble and left the security of his job with the Smithsonian to take a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, an exceptionally beautiful jewel on the lush Hamakua coast just north of Hilo on the Big Island (aka the Orchid Island!). What Tom found there was an orchid paradise where myriad spectacular orchids of all types, both lowland and montane species and hybrids seem to thrive, simply planted in the trees, placing them thoughtfully in the landscape.

Ultimately, he believes the HTBG concept to be a viable model world-wide for orchid conservation and encourages the cultivation of orchids in garden settings by diverse stakeholders in the orchid community and that it is only with the cooperation of Botanical Garden Professionals, Commercial Growers, Academia and committed orchid collectors and backyard growers, that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change.

Tom's topic this month is "Tom's African Adventure" which covers his trip last October to Mauritius, Kenya, several places in South Africa and Gabon.



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Newport Harbor Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Date: May 18, 2021
Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82793911665?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82793911665?pwd=ZUFBaHNzOVJCZyViMFIQWVRteTRNUT09)
[pwd=ZUFBaHNzOVJCZyViMFIQWVRt](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82793911665?pwd=ZUFBaHNzOVJCZyViMFIQWVRteTRNUT09)
[eTRNUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82793911665?pwd=ZUFBaHNzOVJCZyViMFIQWVRteTRNUT09)

Meeting ID: 827 9391 1665
Passcode: 951892



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