

San Diego County Orchid Society 54th Annual Spring Show
Scottish Rite Ctr., 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego

March 24-26, 2000

55th Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
2000
Earl Warren Showgrounds.

March 31, April 1-2,

Summary of the Meeting of January 12, 2000

Business Meeting

- ◆ **President Sandy Svoboda** introduced herself to the membership. She also introduced her husband, **Al Svoboda**, who will be our American Orchid Society representative.
- ◆ **Past President Pat Siordia** will be the official greeter for new members. Don't hesitate to say hello to Pat!
- ◆ **Jeff Thompson** will reprise his role as display manager for the society's exhibit in the spring show. Jeff will be looking for help and plants. He will also be installing a society display at the 5 Cities Show and will appreciate the loan of blooming plants.
- ◆ With the departure of **Matt Swift, Tom Ball**, our Fall Show Manager, has agreed to join the board of directors.
- ◆ **Paul Gripp** presented the *Laelia anceps* Perpetual Trophy to **Bill Robson** for his clone 'La Reina' that was displayed in the fall show.
- ◆ **DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!**

Program

Program Chair **Harriet Roberts** introduced our January speaker, **Susan Fordyce** of Fordyce Orchids. Fordyce Orchids is located in Livermore, an hour East of San Francisco, next to The Orchid Ranch (catts), Orchids Orinda (phals), and Tonkin Orchids (paphs).

Fordyce spoke on a topic near and dear to all our hearts: how to spot stress in our orchids and what to do when we see it. Though much of her advice was geared toward cattleya alliance plants, many warnings were applicable to any orchids. Following are a few of her cultural tips.

Health of the front or newest pseudobulb is particularly important, as this is what produces new growth and flowers. When a plant is overwatered (an

unfortunately frequent crime in the orchid world!), the oldest bulbs will shrivel first as their roots rot. At this point, an emergency repotting is called for. Save the strongest parts, underpot, and water rarely until new roots begin to search for water.

Occasionally (rarely), the front bulb will shrivel first, indicating a lack of water.

Most of us probably water on a schedule for convenience. This, however is dangerous, given that small pots will dry out faster than larger ones.

Honeydew on the sheath of a cattleya means that the plant is so happy it is producing excess food. It is not harmful. However, the sticky secretions on *L. anceps* should be rinsed off to prevent the buds from gluing themselves shut.

Bud sheaths that turn yellow may mean that they are "sweating" on the inside, which will rot the forming flower buds. Gently slice open the tip to allow air circulation. However, don't open the sheath if the bud inside already has a stem (hold the sheath in front of a bright light to see the bud's shadow inside). Note that *C. mossiae* and some of its hybrids may naturally have dry sheaths.

Watering late in the day and watering the flowers may encourage fungus and rot.

Cut the spikes on sick plants to save the plant. Blooming demands tremendous energy from a plant.

Many cattleyas can be acclimated to outdoor temperatures. The cooler weather of winter tends to encourage particularly intense color.

Culture Corner

Matt Swift used his last culture corner to demonstrate division and repotting of a cattleya. He soaks the bark no more than 36-48 hours, then uses the good bark that floats. Be sure to dry out the bark

before storing it. By cutting the rhizome several months before repotting, one can force eyes on back bulbs to sprout. Leave at least two good pseudobulbs per division. Allow for 1-2 years new growth in the new pot and position the oldest part of the plant

Thanks for the Involvement!

The Orchid Society of Santa Barbara bids a fond farewell to three of our members. Last fall, Jack and Marianne Keating left Santa Barbara and moved to Tucson, Arizona. Jack was a member of our board of directors and Marianne often accompanied him to board meetings. The Keatings forwarded the suggestion for the delightful permanent name tags that we now wear. We'd like to thank them for their involvement.

The society also extends a sad good-bye to Matt Swift, who resigned his seat on the board and gave his last (very popular) culture clinic in January. Matt is moving to Upland to open Swift's Orchids and Gifts with his father, Richard. Those of us who were familiar with him through his work at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate or for his role in the society are sure his new venture will do well! (Matt's favorite orchids: equitant oncidiums.)

against the edge of the pot. Tamp down *securely*. Use only sterile razorblades for cutting (heat in 350° oven for an hour). Don't forget the plant label!

Orchids on the Web (Or where to find all those pretty pictures for your computer)

by Heidi Kirkpatrick

If you have a computer and access to the internet, it is time for you to start using one of the most powerful resources for learning more about your orchids. Don't know where to start, you say? Here are a few internet addresses to launch you on your adventure. Once you begin browsing, you will rapidly realize that visiting just a few websites will link you to other sites, more orchid information, and some great orchid people. (Always check out the "links" page of a site you visit; they may know about a terrific new web site you've never heard of!)

A good place to start your internet meander is with the web page of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara. That's right! We have a web page. Check out your society at <http://www.west.net/~orchidsb>

Want to know more about the upcoming shows? Look on the internet. Here are a few examples:

www.SBORchidShow.com

- This is the site for the spring show right here in Santa Barbara.

www.orchidsanfrancisco.com

- Look up times and more for the San Francisco show.

www.fix.net/~dubafcos

- See a photo of our society exhibit in last year's 5 Cities show.

www.sdorchids.com

- Learn more about the San Diego show.

The American Orchid Society website is a comprehensive site that includes cultural information, a discussion forum where anyone can post questions and answers, access to the bookshop, and information about the society's

publications. Go to www.orchidweb.org to find out more.

One of the best starting points for a browse through the orchid world of the internet is www.orchidmall.com. This is a non-commercial site maintained by Carson Whitlow (of cypripedium fame) with links to an immense number of orchid related sites. Visitors can browse through society links or drool over vendor websites. The Orchid Mall contains links to sites with cultural information and sites with orchid photographs. There are also websites for cultural information and botanical gardens with orchid collections.

A relatively new and quite spectacular site is www.orchidspecies.com. This site is not produced commercially but is a labor of love, containing information and photographs for 2291 species in 372 genera. If you want to know what your peculiar acquisition is going to look like, this site might give you a hint.

Perhaps you are interested in discussions about orchids. The Orchid Discussion Online is a free service that will email you the day's exchanges about various topics, ranging from the very easy to the very scientific. To find out more about subscribing and about online orchid chats, browse through the site at www.vengers.com

Here are a few more of my favorite orchid sites.

<http://conbio.bio.uci.edu/orchid/> -- includes the Harold Koopowitz paph species check list and the Henry Oakley Lycaste guide

www.orchidspng.com – Papua New Guinea orchids

www.ladyslipper.com – AnTec Labs on paph
and phrag culture, deflasking, etc.
www.orchid.or.jp/orchid/people/tanaka/orchi

d/
org/newpaph.html – the latest rumors in the
turbulent world of new paph discoveries.

Announcements

◆ **Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Annual Dues**

The address label on your newsletter should have a date in small print at the top. If this date says “Jan 2000” then you have *not* paid your annual dues. Please pay Treasurer Carole Cowan at the February meeting, or mail her a \$20 check, payable to OSSB. Carole’s address is 209 Cedar Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. If you do not pay your dues, you will not continue to receive the newsletter. This is also a good time to check your address and telephone number in the orange society directory; give any corrections to Carole Cowan.

◆ **Spring Show Sales and Volunteers**

It is time to start thinking about the Santa Barbara International Show. Your society will again need your support. At the February and March meetings, there will be sign up sheets for volunteers. We will need volunteers for sales, hospitality and display installation. If you want to sell your plants at the show, you will need to do several things, including: 1) get orange plant labels; 2) make a list of all your plants, including the prices you are charging; 3) label every sales plant with your initials and the price of the plant. Complete instructions will be available at the meeting; following these instructions will help the sales volunteers keep track of your plant and pay you your percentage of the sales price. Now is a good time to start grooming your plants for sale and for the society exhibit.

◆ **Society Mailing Address**

Since so little correspondence arrived at the society’s post office box last year, the box has been relinquished to save money. Address your correspondence directly to board members or to me, your newsletter editor, at the return address listed on this newsletter.

◆ **Welcome New Members!**

Among the new members who have recently joined OSSB are Cindy Chambers, Jim Haburay, Marilyn Hodgkin and Jeffrey Stopple. Welcome to these and all other orchid lovers who have recently joined our society!

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