

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2000

MacKenzie Adult Building
at MacKenzie Park

3111 State Street (at Las Positas)

Culture Corner begins at 7:00 pm

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

George Kenner of Kenner and Sons will speak about
Australian Orchids, particularly Dendrobiums and Sarcophilus

Come and hear about species from the land down under, many of which grow wonderfully in our environment. The Kenner and Sons nursery specializes in Australian orchids and George Kenner leads foreign tours for orchid enthusiasts.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Barbara Chapter Cymbidium Society Meeting Wednesday, March 15, 2000
Cymbidium Society of America judging at 7 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm, Stewart Orchids.

Five Cities Orchid Society Show March 18-19, 2000
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande. For tickets to the wine party preview the evening of March 17, call Eric Holenda (805)-929-5749.

San Diego County Orchid Society 54th Annual Spring Show March 24-26, 2000
Scottish Rite Ctr., 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego

See OSSB on the web at www.west.net/~orchidsb
Summary of the Meeting of February 9, 2000

Business Meeting

- ◆ **President Sandy Svoboda** welcomed our visitors and new members and thanked board member **Laura Cogan**, who agreed to work on publicity for our society.
- ◆ **President Svoboda** reminded everyone of the upcoming shows, including the 5 Cities Show, at which Jeff Thompson will install the society exhibit, and the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, about which more appears later in this newsletter.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ The society would like to thank **Clara and George Brown** for donating old AOS Bulletins and Orchid Digests to the society, with dates from 1956 through 1890. Their generosity is appreciated.
- ◆ **Bill Robson** announced to the society the opening of the Gallup and Stribling Retail Visitors Center and welcomed everyone to come in and chat with him.
- ◆ **DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!**

Program

Program Chair **Harriet Roberts** introduced our February speaker, **Theresa Fung** of Maisie Orchids. Maisie Orchids is located in San Gabriel, not far from the Los Angeles Arboretum, and is known for their Chinese species.

Fung's talk featured several prized orchid species native to China. Unlike many American orchid lovers, Asian growers are very aware of the grace and beauty of foliage. Individual varieties are noted for different forms of variegation, and foliage judging is common in Asian orchid shows.

Cymbidium ensifolium is known in China as the Four Season Orchid for its

ability to bloom at any time of the year. In Southern California, its blooming season is predominantly in the summer and the flowers are scented like citrus. It is a small species with grassy leaves.

With wider leaves and a larger plant, *C. sinense* blooms late winter or early spring with 8 to 20 reddish flowers on a spike. *C. quivenensis*, which bears white-lipped green flowers amidst sparse foliage, may be a natural hybrid.

Chinese cymbidiums like to be moist, but with good air circulation. Many growers prefer a mix of small and medium bark mixed with small and medium perlite and charcoal. Sphagnum placed around the crown atop the bark gives extra moisture. When growing variegated forms, too much light must be avoided or the variegation may disappear. Note that some variegations are not stable. In general, Chinese cymms prefer more shade and water than standards.

Culture Corner

Paul Gripp taught us how to mount division of a potted plant, in this case a cattleya alliance plant. Note that cattleya divisions should be no smaller than three pseudobulbs. To mount, place the newest growth in toward the cork bark. Attach the place securely with wire or monofilament (fishing line), taking care that the wire is placed across the tough rhizome rather than the more tender pseudobulb. Some place a little moss beneath the roots for extra moisture. Tighten the wire so the plant doesn't wiggle about. Tall pseudobulbs should have a temporary support wire to keep them from flopping over. As always, don't forget the tag!

Show Table

Some of the lovely outdoor growers brought in by members included the following.
Bonatea speciosa 'Green Egret' – fast growing South African terrestrial
Laelia superbiens and Laelia anceps – good on

mounts or in pots
Coelogyne cristata – keep the white flowers
out of the rain
Colmanara Pagan Love Song – a robust

odontoglossum intergeneric with large
flowers.

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

March 31, April 1-2, *Orchid Odyssey 2000*

- ◆ **Discount Tickets** – At the March meeting, Carole Cowan will have 50 discount tickets for admission to the show. These tickets are \$6 each, compared to the \$8 admission at the door.
- ◆ **Society Exhibit** – Help your society by lending plants to the society's exhibit. Plants must arrive at the Earl Warren Showgrounds by Noon, Wednesday, March 29. If you cannot deliver your plants, arrange for pickup; there will be a signup sheet at the March meeting or you can call Heidi Kirkpatrick (563-2894) or Jeff Thompson ((563-4376). Make sure your plants have your name on the pots. Jeff Thompson is also looking for props to go with a boat (such as wooden crates) and for volunteers to help install the exhibit.
- ◆ **Sale Plants** – if you want to sell blooming plants at the society booth, get your orange labels from Carole Cowan. The orchid society gets 20% of the sale price. Orange tags and pricing for each plant are needed if you want to get your money for the sale of your plant. Upon sale, the customer will keep the plant name tag and the society will keep the orange label recording the price of the plant. Keep in mind that blooming plants sell, while non-blooming plants often do not. Take your sales plants to Warren Hall sales area after 3 PM Thursday, March 30.
- ◆ **Volunteers** – Your society needs you to volunteer for Hospitality or Sales, so sign up at the March meeting. Hospitality volunteers work for 2 hour shifts, answering questions at the society exhibit. You don't have to be an orchid expert, but you should like interacting with people; your goal is to get visitors interested in orchids and encourage them to join the society. Pat Siordia will have more to say about hospitality at the March meeting. Sales volunteers accept arrivals of new sales plants, acquaint themselves with our merchandize, interact with customers, and bag sold plants. Call Carole Cowan (965-2536) or sign up at the meeting.
- ◆ **Judging** – Jerry Rehfield called for volunteers to do ribbon judging at the show. You don't need an education in formal orchid judging; you simply need to know what you like. Ribbon judges get free admission to the show. Contact Jerry Rehfield if you are interested.
- ◆ **Cymbidium Society of America Annual Congress** – It is not too late to register. This is the 25th congress and it will be a notable one. Attendees will listen to a slate of internationally known speakers, attend luncheon, banquet dinner and show party, and get free admission to the show. Full registration by March 15 is \$80; after that, it is \$90. Call Sandy Svoboda (969-9818) for a registration form.

Announcements

- ◆ **Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Annual Dues**
Please pay Treasurer Carole Cowan at the March 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, this will be your last newsletter.*** This is also a good time to update your address, telephone number, and email address and give them to Carole Cowan.
- ◆ **Thanks!**
Georgia and Bob Hewson donated a copy of The Orchid Thief to the OSSB library. It will be available to be checked out by members.
- ◆ **Welcome New Members!**
Among the new members who have recently joined OSSB are James and Noel Burkey of Orchids Royale, Noel Andrews, Gerry Young and Anita Talanian.
- ◆ **Member Profile**
Pat Siordia tells us that Norm and Joyce Weider have been members for about 12 years. Although they have a greenhouse, their home on the Mesa allows them to grow a number of orchids outdoors, including miltonias, masdevallias and oerstedellas. They always bring plants

for the society sales table at shows, and often have lovely show plants at meetings.

Orchid Periodicals

Last month, I wrote about a few of the great sites one can visit on the internet. However, not everyone has access or inclination to spend time at a computer. Sometimes it is very comforting to hold a periodical in one's hands.

As orchid collecting becomes more widespread, orchid periodicals have become more sophisticated. Two that are well suited to the general reader are *Orchids*, a monthly publication of the American Orchid Society, and *The Orchid Digest*, published quarterly by The Orchid Digest Corporation. Both contain articles of broad interest, plus numerous, excellent color photographs. *Orchid Adventures*, sent quarterly by the Cymbidium Society of America, concentrates on cymbidiums, paphiopedilums, and cool growing companion orchids. To keep track of the latest in AOS awards, try *Awards Quarterly*. For articles of a scientific nature, the AOS publishes *Lindleyana*.

If you are still hungry for information, try some of the excellent foreign periodicals. The world's longest running orchid journal is *The Orchid Review* of the Royal Horticultural Society, published bimonthly. Also published six times a year is the *Australian Orchid Review*, with an emphasis on growing conditions similar to our local environment.

This is by no means a comprehensive list. There are many other fine orchid publications, including newsletters of specialty societies. But these magazines should provide the reader with a few hours of happy reading.

Orchids (\$40 annually), *Awards Quarterly* (\$38 annually), *Lindleyana* (\$29 annually) American Orchid Society, 6000 South Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33405-4199

The Orchid Digest (\$20 annually), Robert H. Schuler, Executive Director, PO Box 1216, Redlands, CA 92373-0402

Orchid Adventures (\$30 annually, including CSA membership), Paula Butler, Membership Secretary, PO Box PO Box 2244, Orange, CA 92859-0244

The Orchid Review (\$US40 annually) The Orchid Review, PO Box 38, Kent, TN25 6PR, United Kingdom

Australian Orchid Review (\$US41 annually) Australian Orchid Review, 14 McGill Street, Lewisham, Sydney 2049, NSW, Australia

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