

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



**Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2000**

**MacKenzie Adult Building**

at MacKenzie Park

**3111 State Street** (at Las Positas)

*Meeting begins at 7:30 pm*

## **PROGRAM**

**Maria Bajewski** will speak about  
**Reed Stem Epidendrums**

Maria and Werner Bajewski grow reed stem epis and phaius in Carpinteria, so they can tell us exactly what we need to know for our local growing conditions. For those of you who attended the Spring Show this year, you may remember their wonderful, prize-winning *Phaius tankervilleae*. The Bajewskis will be providing the raffle table, so bring your money to pick up some lovely and colorful orchids that will grow outside in our area.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Santa Barbara Chapter Cymbidium Society Meeting**      Wednesday, May 17, 2000  
Cymbidium Society of America judging at 7 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm, Stewart Orchids.

**The Huntington Orchid Festival**      May 13-14, 2000  
The Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA, 626-405-2100. Web site:  
[www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

**AOS Judging Location Change**      Fourth Monday of Each Month  
AOS Judging formerly held in Huntington Beach has moved to the South Coast Plaza West in Costa Mesa. (I405 south to Fairview Road exit, turn left over freeway, right on South Coast

Drive, left on Bear Street, Plaza on left. Meeting in suite 310) Judging in Burbank on the second Monday of each month remains the same.

See OSSB on the web at [www.west.net/~orchidsb](http://www.west.net/~orchidsb)  
**Summary of the Meeting of April 12, 2000**

**Business Meeting**

- ◆ **President Sandy Svoboda** welcomed our visitors and introduced **Don Brown** of the April newsletter member profile.
- ◆ *Show news* – The society received a \$200 check for its first place win in society exhibits under 100 square feet at the spring show! Jeff Thompson distributed sphagnum moss to the members; this moss had been used in the OSSB display. Puanani Orchids donated 19 plants to the society at the end of the spring show; these plants appeared on the April raffle table.
- ◆ *Donations* – The society received several important donations recently, including Sanders Books of Hybrids (used for judging at our show) and past issues of AOS *Bulletin* and *Orchid Digest*. Those issues of the *Bulletin* and *Orchid Digest* that are duplicates of our library copies will be raffled or auctioned at the June meeting. See the June newsletter for updated information.
- ◆ *Volunteers* – Your society needs you! **President Svoboda** asked for a volunteer or volunteers to arrive at 7 pm before meetings and manage set-up and tear-down of the chairs at our meeting location. **Laura Cogan** reminded members to sign up to bring refreshments; she will give volunteers a reminder call.

**Program**

Program Chair **Harriet Roberts** introduced our April speaker, **Ron Parsons** from Daly City. Parsons has been growing orchids for 25 years and photographing them for 18. Some of his collection of 18,000 orchid slides have appeared in orchid books and such publications as *Orchids*.

Parsons spoke to us about Rare and Unusual Species. His visual excursion into the more obscure world of orchid species reminded us all that orchids are a

fascinating and wildly varying plant family. Among the many wonderful orchids he showed us are the following entertaining species.

*Porroglossum josei* – This relatively new species from Ecuador has a sensitive lip that traps unwary bugs to insure pollination. *Restrepia brachypus* (formerly *R. striata*) – Restrepias will grow outdoors in our area and can be propagated from cuttings of old, bloomed leaves.

*Epidendrum ilense* – This species from Ecuador may be extinct in the wild but is available in cultivation. White, fringed flowers appear on tall canes; don't ever cut the spike because it will rebloom!

*Galeandra curvifolia* – This Brazilian species with showy flowers will also rebloom several times from the same spike.

*Scuticaria strictifolia* – This terete (pencil-like) leaved species earned murmurs from the audience for its yellow flowers with brown speckles and a white lip. It will grow outdoors here and has been known to survive frost.

*Dimorphorchis lowii* – A large vanda relative, this species garnered "ahs" from our members for its showy, pendant spikes.

Two flower forms appear on each spike; the first several blooms are yellow with light spotting, while the rest are heavily blotched in maroon.

*Cymbidium nanulum* – This recently discovered species from Yunnan, China grows in decaying matter on the ground and is difficult in cultivation.

*Vanilla imperialis* – Though we all love the bean derived from vanilla seed pods, the caustic sap of the long, vining plant can burn and cause a rash.

**Show Table**

Paul Gripp told us that some of the fine outdoors growers on the show table included *Maxillaria picta*, *Epidendrum ciliare*, *Encyclia citrina*, *Epidendrum conopseum* (hardy to N. Carolina!), and *Dendrobium linguiforme*. He admired a fine

*Cym. canaliculatum*, a collection of Masdevallias, and a showy Paph. Julius.

Thanks to all for bringing plants to show!

## The Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Library Collection (or Use Your Local Society Library!)

This month's member profile features a man who quite literally carries a heavy load in our society. **Michael Ling** is our society librarian and brings a selection from the society library to every meeting. He tells us that his first orchid experience was a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to an orchid show in Taiwan. The first orchid he ever owned was *Cym. traceyanum* and he continues to favor outdoor species. He has been a member of the society for 20 years. He advises others to be realistic about matching a plant's needs with one's environment and to pay consistent attention to one's orchids rather than following all the latest fads. He notes that, "Orchids are surprisingly resilient and forgiving, despite our ignorance."

If you would like to alleviate some of your own ignorance about orchids, the society library can be a wonderful resource. Michael Ling has graciously written a brief overview of the library to get you started; complete lists are available at the meeting or via Michael's email. – Heidi Kirkpatrick

Our society is blessed with dedicated amateurs as well as world renown growers. Consequently, society meetings are exceptional opportunities to admire plants, listen to excellent featured programs, and engage in plant discussions. However, learning about orchids need not stop at the end of monthly meetings. Our sizable library offers members additional knowledge at their own pace and in the comfort of their homes. As custodian of the collection, I recommend the following considerations to better utilize the library.

1. For orchid neophytes, check out one of the videos or books with lots of color photos. These sources will not be overwhelming and will still reward with beautiful visual images. There are several books called, simply, Orchids, and a few introductory videos, such as "An Introduction to Orchids" or "The Many Worlds of Orchids." The periodicals *Orchids* and *Orchid Digest* provide a broad spectrum of information and many lovely photos.

2. Initially stay away from esoteric materials. Try a book on preferred growing conditions, which will help you to select suitable orchids to your available growing conditions. For example, Rebecca Northen has written several books for hobbyists, including Home Orchid Growing and Orchids as House Plants. Other useful books in the library collection include You Can Grow Orchids by

Mary Noble, Orchids: Growing and Displaying by Ritterhausen and Oakley, and Orchids for the Outdoor Garden by A. W. Darnell.

3. Once the reader has become somewhat familiar with a certain genus and wishes to acquire additional information on species within the genus, a genus specific book would be helpful. The library contains a number of books on individual orchid genera, including Growing Cymbidium Orchids at Home by Lance Birk, The Genus Encyclia in Mexico by Dressler and Pollard, and The Genus Phalaenopsis by Herman Sweet.

4. For the more advanced grower, our library also has materials on orchid breeding. Some of these are Growing Orchids/The Hybrid Story by J. N. Rentoul and Meristem Tissue Culture, a publication from the American Orchid Society.

It is impossible for me, your librarian, to carry the entire book collection to the monthly meetings. Should you desire to check out a certain book, it is best to call me at 687-8565 or email me at milomeso4@aol.com I can bring the particular title to the meeting or arrange to check it out a mutually convenient time.

Your librarian,  
Michael Ling

## **Announcement**

### **◆ Spring Show Updates and Corrections**

Your editor abjectly apologizes for the following errors and omissions in last month's discussion of the spring show. In addition to those members mentioned in the April newsletter, the Society would like to thank Bill Robson for bringing his plants (especially the Show Trophy Winner) for the Society display. Among the ribbon winners, C. JA Carbone 'Garnet' belongs to Frank Methmann and *Masd. amabilis* is owned by Laura and Brian Cogan.

### **Native Orchids of California**

In our enthusiasm to find the latest and greatest in Asian or South American orchids, we orchid growers often forget that California is home to a number of native orchid species. If you are planning any wilderness hiking in the late spring or early summer, you might enhance your enjoyment by researching where to find native orchids in the wild. There is nothing quite like one's first sight of a real, honest-to-goodness orchid flower growing naturally without human intervention.

However, native orchids are not always easy to find. The interested hunter needs to know where to look and what to expect. Among the several good books on native orchids is Ronald Coleman's The Wild Orchids of California. Our own Paul Gripp is an expert on finding orchids in the wild.

If you are lucky enough to encounter a stand of cyripediums (related to paphiopedilums), epipactus, or other genus flowering in the wild, don't disturb them! Wild, temperate-climate orchids are notoriously difficult to grow in cultivation; digging up a pretty clump is an almost certain death sentence for the orchid. Leave them alone but remember the spot so you can visit them again next blooming season.

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