

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



**Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2000**

**MacKenzie Adult Building**

at MacKenzie Park

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

*Meeting begins at 7:30 pm*

## **PROGRAM**

**Hans Hermanns** of Orchid Konnexion in Thailand will speak to us on  
**Native Thai Orchids and How We Really Should Grow Them**

Many of us have been delighted in the last few years by Hans' presence as a vendor at our wonderful vendor fair and spring show. Hans always arrives with wonderful vandaceous plants and droolworthy paphiopedilums. We're lucky enough to have him as a speaker before this year's vendor fair. He promises to show us lots of wonderful orchid slides. He'll also tell us about natural habitats and how to adapt our growing conditions to what orchids want. If you have a vandaceous orchid and want to know more about caring for it, this is the talk for you!

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### **July Vendor Fair**

July 15 and 16, 2000

Yes, it is time for another big purchasing opportunity. Our local nurseries will be having big sales and hosting many guest (including foreign) vendors. Cal-Orchid: 9-5 Saturday, 9-4 Sunday. Santa Barbara Orchid Estate: 9-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday. Stewart Orchids, Saturday and Sunday, plus their last *Orchids and All that Jazz* party Friday evening, July 14.

### **Santa Barbara Chapter Cymbidium Society Meeting**

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Cymbidium Society of America judging at 7 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm, Stewart Orchids.

*See OSSB on the web at [www.west.net/~orchidsb](http://www.west.net/~orchidsb)*  
**Summary of the Meeting of July 14, 2000**

**Business Meeting**

- ◆ **President Sandy Svoboda** welcomed our visitors and introduced the subjects of the June member profile, **Laura and Brian Cogan**. (Correction for last newsletter: Brian tells me he is really one eighth Chumash Indian.)
- ◆ The society would like to thank member **Don Thorn** for his donation of plants to the May raffle table!
- ◆ **President Svoboda** reported that OSSB received a thank you note from 5 Cities for our participation (Jeff Thompson and Kathy Bower installed an OSSB exhibit) in their show. Our own society show will be the first weekend of December this year, so mark your calendars!
- ◆ Anyone interested in AOS judging should note that judging in Burbank occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. In Costa Mesa, judging is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. A number of our members attend monthly judgments, including Laura Cogan who has just become a clerk for judging!

**Program**

President **Sandy Svoboda** expressed the gratitude of the society to our speaker, Steve McNerney, and his wife Mary Jo. In the time that they've owned Stewart Orchids, they have supported our society at our Fall Show and have been a friendly place for a hobbyist. We will miss them when they move later this summer.

Steve McNerney spoke to us about the past and the future of Stewart Orchids, which is one of the oldest still-operational orchid nurseries in the US. It began as a general nursery under the name Armacost and Royston, but became involved in orchids in 1920 with the purchase of the collection of a wealthy Beverly Hills family. To manage the collection, the nursery hired B. O. Bracey, an old school English gardener and a name familiar in orchid history. The nursery's first hybrid was

registered in 1921 – C. Enid.

In 1922, Dr. Lewis Knudson developed the method of flasking seed on agar that we still use today. This greatly increased the ability of nurseries to produce orchid seedlings. In those days, orchids were shipped with much the enthusiasm we see today, except they traveled by train and truck. In the 1930s, the nursery became involved in promoting outdoor cymbidiums for California.

1935 brought together two great names in orchid breeding. Leo Holguin and Ernest Hetherington were hired by the nursery. Holguin became manager in 1948. The previous year, Fred A. Stewart started an orchid company in San Gabriel and hired Hetherington. In 1975 Holguin moved the A & R operations to Carpinteria. Two years later, the nursery was sold to Stewarts, under the management of Hetherington. Agristar acquired the nursery in 1993, then sold it to Steve and Mary Jo in 1997.

During its almost century of operation, the nursery has played an important role in the orchid world. Stewarts was the first in mass producing flasks of orchid seedlings. The nursery has been prominent in orchid breeding, including cattleyas and cymbidiums. And it has been an "orchid college" for some of the influential orchidists of our era, including Frank Fordyce and Ned Nash.

Now, the McNerneys are moving the nursery to the historic town of Natchez, Mississippi. Their current facilities need renovation, but are built on rental property. Their new facility will be a 65,000 square foot, computer-controlled complex of four greenhouses. In keeping with the warmer climate of Natchez, the emphasis of the nursery will shift somewhat to warmer growing orchids. The McNerneys also plan to increase their accessibility via their web site. The current timeline places the actual move in August of this year. But we're all invited to visit them in Natchez in the future!

## RED ALERT ON NEW ORCHID REGULATIONS

by Heidi Kirkpatrick

I originally intended this month's article to be a cheerful advertisement for the AOS Trustees meeting and 45<sup>th</sup> Eastern Orchid Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia. In researching for it, I ran across another time sensitive topic that is even more important.

Good news first. If you are looking for an orchid related vacation with entertainment for your non-orchidist spouse/children, I have the trip for you. October 12-22, 2000, the fall AOS Trustees meeting and the 45<sup>th</sup> EOC will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. This event involves a show supported by East Coast societies, a collection of vendors, and a roster of speakers, many of whom are internationally known. While you are indulging your orchid habit, your family can sample Busch Gardens or Colonial Williamsburg.

If you want to know more about an Eastern Orchid Congress and Colonial Williamsburg, I'd be happy to give you my very biased opinions. For more information, contact Dave Bryan at 932 Darby Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23464, email: bryanv1@ix.netcom.com or check out [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org) which is the AOS web site.

It was at the AOS web site that I encountered the "bad news" portion of this article. Many of you may have heard of CITES, the international agreement intended to stem the trade in illegally collected plants and animals. There are plenty of opinions on the effectiveness of CITES, both good and bad. However, no matter what you feel about CITES, the latest enforcement proposals from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (UFWS, the ones who regulate CITES enforcement in this country) are worse.

Briefly (and simplistically), CITES requires that plants shipped internationally either be artificially propagated or have the proper collection permits from the country of origin. Rules are even tougher for endangered species listed in the appendices (for example all paphiopedilums). But the proposed enforcement regulations from the UFWS are far more stringent. Not only is it prohibited to possess or trade illegally imported specimens, but it will be illegal to have or trade (sell) any *offspring* of illegal specimens. Anyone who applies for a US CITES document *must* provide "clear records of ownership, copies of cleared CITES documents, and records of parental or founder stock for specimens bred or propagated in the US." Worse yet, "the burden of proof in establishing

that the issuance criteria are met lies with the applicant."

What do these new regulations mean? If a grower wants to export a plant, he or she must have the proper paper saying that plant is legal – *or that the plant's parents, all the way back to jungle collected, are legal!!!!* (Think about trying to trace the plants in *your* collection back to that first, jungle-collected specimen! Impossible!!!)

Most plants owned by nurseries *do not* have such documentation. Plants shipped in flask are considered artificially propagated by CITES and are not issued documents. CITES documents on bareroot plants imported to the US are usually kept by the inspector at the port of entry. Therefore, a grower who has legally amassed species as stud plants may have no records of this legality. Effectively, the grower couldn't export artificially propagated plants because he or she doesn't have the right piece of paper. Worse yet, legal *domestic* sales could be jeopardized if the grower cannot prove his or her plants to be legal back to the original collections from the wild!! By stifling artificial propagation, these regulations would **increase** pressure on wild populations from illegal plant collection and black market trading.

If you are a hobbyist, you may ask how this could impact you. Consider that many US nurseries may make significant money from sales to foreign countries. If they are prevented from reaching this market by new and overzealous regulations, how many of them would be able to stay in business? *How many of them would no longer be able to sell their plants to us because they don't have proper documentation?* How many opportunities to purchase inexpensive, artificially propagated species would we, as hobbyists, lose? How many species would go extinct from increased illegal collection?

Want to learn more? Our own Al Svoboda is on the AOS conservation committee. (He and I will address this issue at the July meeting.) The AOS web site listed previously provides horrifyingly clear information, plus an outline of the actions AOS is taking. Want to make a difference? Write to the AOS at 6000 S. Olive Ave, West Palm Beach, FL 33405 or via email at [cites\\_issue@theaos.org](mailto:cites_issue@theaos.org)

You can also write to Ms. Teiko Saito, Chief of Office of Management and Authority, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr.,

Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203, email at r9oma\_cites@fws.gov Direct your comments in reference to "Part 23 Comments" and request an extension of the comment period, which is only

until August 7!!! The future of the US orchid industry may be severely impacted if we don't act to save it!

### **OSSB August Picnic**

Did you have fun at last year's BBQ? If you didn't attend, did you wonder what you missed? Here is your chance to socialize with your fellow orchid growers! This year's BBQ will be held at 4:30 pm on **Saturday, August 5**. The Santa Barbara Orchid Estate has once again graciously allowed us to hold our event on their grounds – come by early to browse. Food will once again be catered by Bill Robson's brother; for those of you who attended last year's event, he makes a very tasty BBQ! Attendance is \$6 per person. *Please make your reservation in advance*. Carole Cowan will accept your money at the July meeting, or you can mail your check, made out to OSSB, to Carole at 209 Cedar Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

### **Member Profile**

This month, Pat Siordia talked Don Thorn, who has been a member of our society for 10 years. Don spent 39 years as a pilot for Delta Airlines and is now a Flight Engineer. His rather enviable route takes him to Honolulu, where he visits Hawaiian nurseries and attends the annual orchid show. The lucky flight attendants on his route often receive orchid corsages from Don. He and his wife live on the ocean side of Shepard Mesa, which has a favorable microclimate for growing outdoor orchids. He also grows in a greenhouse and in his house. His orchid hobby has kept him entertained for over 20 years. These days, he favors cymbidiums, epidendrums, oncidiums and cattleyas. Recently, he has expanded into the world of paphiopedilums.

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara  
Heidi Kirkpatrick, Secretary  
2687 Dorking Place  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105