

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2002

MacKenzie Adult Building

at MacKenzie Park

3111 State Street (at Las Positas)

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Matt Swift of Swift's Orchids

will speak about

Equitant Oncidiums

If you are looking for something a little different that won't take much space, consider an equitant oncidium, known to taxonomists as *tolumnia*. Matt Swift has been growing these colorful beauties for years and will bring blooming and non-blooming examples to teach us how to grow these gems. Swift grew up around the orchids in his father's greenhouse and has opened a retail orchid store with his father. Those of us who have been members for a few years will remember Swift from his days in OSSB, when he worked at Stewart's and then the Orchid Estate. Swift's Orchids will provide the raffle table, so don't forget your wallets!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale
2002

February 7-10,

South Coast Plaza, Crate and Barrel Wing, Costa Mesa. www.fascinationforchids.com

San Francisco Orchid Society's Pacific Orchid Exposition

February 22-24, 2002

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. www.orchidsanfrancisco.com

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, "Lights ... Camera ... Orchids!"
2002

March 8-10,

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. www.sborchidshow.com

27th Annual Cymbidium Congress

See the announcements section for more information.

March 9, 2002

Five Cities Orchid Show, "Orchids Olé"

South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande. www.fix.net/~duba/fcos/

March 23-24, 2002

Summary of the January 2002 Meeting

- President Jeff Thompson welcomed visitors and guests. Visitors who sign the guest book receive 2 months of free newsletters!
- President Thompson reported on the first board meeting of 2002. The feedback the board has received concerning the last two years of speakers has been generally very positive. However, some members have inquired about the possibility of retaining one or two speakers from out of the area. Given the cost of transporting and housing out-of-town speakers and the increase in speakers' fees in general, money has become a very real issue. President Thompson announced that the board is sponsoring a questionnaire concerning finances and other society issues. *The questionnaire appears in THIS issue of the newsletter; please complete and return it so the board may have a better idea of how to serve the membership.*
- To help raise money for speakers, President Thompson encouraged members to buy raffle tickets or to donate directly to a special speakers' fund on the back table during meetings.
- The society was proud to present longtime member Jerry Rehfield with a lifetime membership to OSSB and the AOS Affiliated Societies Award for meritorious service to our society. Thanks, Jerry, for all you do! Jerry joins Paul Gripp as a lifetime OSSB member.
- President Thompson reminded the membership that the Spring Show (Santa Barbara International Orchid Show) and the Five Cities Orchid Show are just around the corner. See this newsletter for more information on the Spring Show. If you will have plants to lend to the society for the Five Cities show (March 23-24), call Jeff Thompson at 563-4376.
- **Annual Dues!** Please don't forget to pay your dues for 2002. Dues are \$20 per household. If you cannot give your dues to Carole Cowan at the meeting, send her a check payable to OSSB at 209 Cedar Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. If you have any corrections to your address or phone number, please tell Carole!!

Program

Vice President Frank Methmann introduced

our speaker, Catherine Lee, an AOS probationary judge from Burbank. Lee spoke to us on a topic that should be near and dear to all our hearts: cultural excellence.

Most AOS awards recognize the quality of a plant and its flowers. However, the AOS does have awards that specifically acknowledge the grower/exhibitor for plants grown to the highest cultural standards. These cultural awards recognize achievements in a fashion that does not require possession of the plant with the "biggest" and "best" flowers. As Lee noted, cultural awards are a way of rewarding all growers, hobbyists included, for their efforts.

Quoting from the AOS handbook, a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) is "awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers." The exhibitor must have owned the plant for at least six months. CCMs are awarded to plants that score 80 out of a possible 100 points. Plants that score 90 or more points are awarded a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE), an award instated in the last year.

What makes a CCM plant? Culturally excellent plants have foliage clean of bugs, fungus or other unsightly markings – no tip-burned cymbidiums, and no sneaky scissor marks where those burned tips were cut! They are clean plants, with old papery sheaths and dead leaves removed. Exhibitors often top dress with a layer of fresh bark to hide old mix. Staking, where appropriate, is meticulous and discreet. And there are lots of flowers for that particular type of plant!

Lee shared a number of photos of plants that earned their growers a CCM. *Phal.* Goldiana 'Zuma Canyon' displayed 45 flowers and 5 buds on well-staked spikes. Lee reported George Vasquez's hint that phals never go in pots over six inches; the big ones should stay moist and rootbound. Several clones of *Liparis viridiflora* have earned CCMs for their growers, suggesting that the plant is a "good CCM plant." *Disa* Foam 'San Francisco', member of a genus considered difficult to grow, earned a CCM for 8 flowers and 8 buds on 8 spikes. *Ctism.* *roseum* 'Dorothy Stock' had 167 flowers on 19 spikes.

Want a plant judged? By attending judging sessions, you can learn more about the judging

process, including the fact that most plants are “screened” rather than awarded. If you are ready to have a plant judged, check Wildcatt or *Awards Quarterly* to compare your plant to previously awarded clones. Know your plant’s parentage so

you can fill out the judging form. If your plant receives an award, you will need to wait while the plant is photographed; in addition, you will be charged a registration fee.

OSSB Member Questionnaire

Rationale: Your elected officers and board of directors would like to know your opinions and ideas for the direction OSSB should take. In particular, the board is concerned about OSSB’s shrinking assets and the growing cost of maintaining our fine quality of speakers at monthly meetings. Please consider that any savings or additional income to the society could be applied to speaker programs.

Please answer the following questions on these and other topics and return your replies to Heidi Kirkpatrick at the February 13th meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please mail your responses to Heidi Kirkpatrick, 2687 Dorking Place, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. I will accept email replies sent to g_pierce@juno.com

- 1) Would you support an increase in the annual dues from \$20 to \$25, effective beginning in 2003?

- 2) Several southern California societies base their annual fees on a single-person membership, with a small supplemental fee (usually \$5) for a spouse. The household receives one newsletter, but the spouse is entitled to the same benefits as the primary member, including the right to a vote and the right to enter plants in silent auctions. Would you support a similar fee structure for OSSB?

- 3) OSSB currently receives 20% of the sale price of member plants that are sold through the society. Would you continue to sell plants through the society if OSSB kept 30% of the sale price?

- 4) Should OSSB continue to subsidize the annual BBQ? Would you attend if the BBQ cost \$10 (the unsubsidized price) rather than \$6 as in previous years?

- 5) Would you support (donate plants) once or twice a year for a donated raffle table or silent auction similar to the donated silent auction currently held at the December meeting?

- 6) Other southern California societies hold bidding auctions to raise money. Would you support (attend and spend at) a bidding auction in lieu of a regular meeting?

- 7) Should the society continue to put on a fall/winter show? If so, how do you recommend increasing attendance and member volunteers at the show to make the show financially viable?

- 8) This issue of the newsletter is being emailed to a handful of members on an experimental basis. To reduce the cost of the newsletter mailing, would you be willing to accept an email version of the newsletter (sent as a Microsoft Word attachment) in lieu of the hard copy sent through the post? If so, please include your email address.

- 9) If you have other suggestions or ideas, please include them; your board is interested!

Announcements

- **Awarded Plants!** If you have award slides of your awarded plants, Jeff Thompson would like to borrow them for use in the OSSB display at the Spring Show. Since time is short, please bring your slides to the February meeting. If your plants have received awards, particularly in recent years, but you do not have your slides, please call Jeff Thompson at 563-4376 by February 10th.
- **New Members.** OSSB would like to welcome the following new members to our society: Dick Weist; Nancy Poyourow; and DeeJay Christensen.
- **Speaker's Fee Donation.** November 2001 speaker Christina Holenda asked that her speaker's fee be donated to the American Orchid Society in memory of Phil Keenan.
- **27th Annual Congress of the Cymbidium Society of America.** The CSA congress will be held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara International Show. For more information or a registration form, contact Al and Sandy Svoboda at 969-4536 or stillisch@pol.net
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.** Society exhibit – Plants must arrive at the Earl Warren Showgrounds by Noon, Wednesday, March 6 if they are to be included in the exhibit. If you cannot deliver your plants at that time, call Jeff Thompson (563-4376). Make sure your plants have your name on the pots. Sale Plants – Carole Cowan will have orange tags and instructions at the February meeting. Sale plants should arrive at the showgrounds after 3 pm, Thursday, March 7. Keep in mind that blooming plants sell better. You need to supply Carole Cowan with a numbered list of your plants that has the name of each plant and its price. Each sale plant needs an orange tag with your initials, the number of the plant and the price of the plant. The society keeps the orange tag as a record of the sale. Volunteers – Sign up at the February meeting to help with Hospitality, Sales, or Exhibit Installation. Hospitality workers answer questions at the society exhibit, direct visitors to the society sales area, and encourage visitors to join the society. You don't have to be an orchid expert to be friendly to visitors. Sales volunteers interact with customers and bag sold plants.

See OSSB on the web at www.west.net/~orchidsb

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
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