

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



Meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
1232 De La Vina (at De La Vina and Victoria)
Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Peter Baxter

will speak about

Cattleyas of Brazil

Many of us have wonderful cattleya alliance hybrids in our collections, but some of the species are just as delightful. Want to learn more about Brazilian species and their habitats? Come hear Peter Baxter tell us about cattleyas of Brazil. Not only is Baxter an accredited AOS judge, but he spent years at Stewart Orchids hybridizing cattleyas, phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums. Baxter has received AOS awards for his favorite cattleya alliance plants and continues to breed catfts for himself these days. This is your chance to learn from an expert in the field.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

South Bay Orchid Society Show, "Kaleidoscope of Orchids"
2002

Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance.

April 13-14,

17th World Orchid Conference

April 24-May 2, 2002

Malaysia International Exhibition Centre, Malaysia. Web site www.orchid2002.com.my or email at woc17@orchid2002.com.my

Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire

Crossroads Shopping Center, Highway 1 at Rio Road, Carmel, CA

May 4-5, 2002

UCI Arboretum Annual Spring Flower and Orchid Show

UCI Arboretum, corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA. No AOS judging.

May 4-5, 2002

Summary of the March 2002 Meeting

As I was not at the March meeting, I would like to thank Jeff Thompson for his excellent program notes – Heidi Kirkpatrick, editor.

Program

Our March speaker, Bob Hamilton, enlightened the membership about the beautiful and sometimes misunderstood genus of *Odontoglossum*. *Odontoglossum* means “tooth-tongued” referring to the lip of the flower.

Today, *Odontoglossum* is not one of the “big” genera of the orchid world. But in the earlier days of orchid collecting, this genus was highly prized. In fact, *Odont. crispum* was the orchid of 1880s England. Plants of this species were removed from Colombia by felling the trees on which they grew and shipping the plants in lots of 5000 to 20,000. Most of the plants were doomed; only one in 20 survived the brutal treatment to wind up in a Victorian greenhouse.

The first “odont” hybrid was made in 1890 by Rothchild. Fourteen years later, the first intergeneric odont cross was made, this between *Cochliodes* and *Odontoglossum*. This development introduced not only more warmth tolerance, but also red color. A resurgence of interest in odonts began in the 1940s and 1950s with Mr. Price from San Francisco, continuing through the late Robert Dugger to Howard Liebman today. Despite these champions, *Odontoglossums* languish in relative obscurity.

Some of the difficulty with odonts comes from their cultural demands. Their habitats are found on the wet, Pacific sides of mountain ranges in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. Here, climates are very stable, with about 12 hours of daylight year round and constant humidity from the cloud forest environment. The maximum daytime temperature may reach 77°F, but in general

temperatures are cool.

Providing a similar habitat in cultivation requires either strict greenhouse control or fortuitous outdoor location. Hamilton noted that coastal Santa Barbara would be a good climate if its humidity and moisture were more constant. The San Francisco Bay area is excellent for odonts because of the persistent fog.

Hamilton grows his odonts in a mix of half bark and half #2 perlite. He finds that this mix wets easily, drains readily, and allows air movement without drying out too quickly. The high proportion of perlite reduces the problem of bark decay for those who cannot repot as often as they might like. Hamilton prefers this mix because he tends his orchids only once a week. Others are successful with peat and perlite, while the Eric Young Foundation does superbly with 100% rockwool.

Hamilton feels that good water is important because it allows the grower to add more fertilizer without root injury or leaf burn. He believes that soilless mixes (e.g., bark and perlite) do not require as much phosphorus.

Of the 50 or 60 species of *Odontoglossum*, only about 10 are used in hybridizing, with *Odont. crispum* the most frequently used. Few of the hybrids from the 1900s have survived. Current breeding aims for rich color in flat flowers. Whites and red/pinks are popular, but flowers containing both colors are often wavy. This occurs because cells with red pigment grow at a different rate than those with white pigment – a challenge to surmount for the hybridizer.

The current breeding trend is to return to primary hybrids, but with the addition of new species, such as *Onc. tigrinum*, which reduces the fading of yellow hybrids. Another method to gain fuller, rounder, more substantial flowers is to double the chromosomes (accomplished

chemically). However, tissue culturing of prized clones is not always successful; Hamilton noted that it is not understood why some odonts will not tissue culture.

Hamilton's prognosis for the future of *Odontoglossum* is not rosy, as they do poorly in mixed greenhouses and do not last as well as other pot plant orchids.

Santa Barbara International Show Report

As your newsletter editor and secretary of OSSB, I would like to begin by thanking everyone who helped with the exhibit or sales areas. Putting on a display and maintaining a sales booth require many volunteers, good looking show plants, and plenty of sales plants. In particular, the society owes a great deal to the tireless efforts of our president, Jeff Thompson, and our secretary, Carole Cowan.

Congratulations to all our members who won ribbons and awards with their plants and displays. Kudos go to our members who installed their own displays at the show. Good job on all that hard work!

What follows is a partial list of awards. Congratulations to these winners and to everyone who received a ribbon at the show.

Best Orchid In Show; International Phalaenopsis Alliance Show Trophy – *Phal.* (Taisuco Kochdian x Yukimi) ... Symphony Orchids
Grand Champion of Show – *Cym.* Kirby Lesh 'Cinnabar' ... Weegie Caughlan
Reserve Champion of Show – *Cym.* (Valley Zenith x Red Beauty) 'Tristan' ... Gallup & Stribling
American Orchid Society Show Trophy – Malibu Orchid Society
Orchid Digest Show Trophy – Cole/Velardi
Best Theme of Show, Amateur – Santa Maria Orchid Society
Best Table Display, Amateur – Alsan's Orchids {better known as our own Al and Sandy Svoboda}
Best First Bloom Cymbidium Seedling – *Cym.* Daddy's Girl 'Hidden Valley' ... Dick Swain
Best Botanical Specimen Blooming Plant Showing Excellence of Culture – *Den. linguiforme* 'Rosminah' ... Don Brown
Best Cattleya Specimen Blooming Plant Showing Excellence of Culture – *Slc.* Coastal Magic 'Montecito' ... Ethel Seeburg {note that the Seeburgs also had the 2nd place cattleya specimen plant, *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Sunshine'}
CHM/AOS to *Batemanian armellata* – Fred Lukas
HCC/AOS to *Paph.* Pinocchio – Lance and Pat Schroeder
BM/CSA to *Phrag.* Don Wimber 'Tiera's Star' – Lance and Pat Schroeder
AM/AOS to *Slc.* Coastal Magic 'Montecito' – Ethel Seeburg

The following vendors very generously donated plants and fertilizer to the OSSB raffle table and silent auction. Remember these vendors kindly in the future when it comes to buying plants and products! A list of these vendors with contact information will be available at the April meeting.

Agro-Oriente Viveros
Bangkok Botanical Garden
Best of Thai Orchids
Botany Bay
Chaotic Exotics
Gold Country Orchids
Jerry's Grow
Kawamoto Orchid Nursery
Marty's Orchids
Norman's Orchids
Orchids of Los Osos
P. M. Orchid
Swift's Orchids

Andy's Orchids
Baron's Orchids
Blossoming Orchid Nursery, Inc.
Carmela Orchids, Inc.
Ecuagenera
Islander Delights
Joel Clayton Orchids
Kyodai Nursery USA
N'Go Orchids
The Orchid House
O. V. Orchids
Sunset Orchids
Valley Orchids, Inc.

Announcements

- **Best Wishes to Jerry Rehfield** who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. We're thinking of you, Jerry!
- **Lost Plant.** Jeff Thompson has custody of *Paph.* (Algonquin x Freckles), which was left at the spring show. If this is your plant, call Jeff at 563-4376.
- **Winning Awards at the 2003 Spring Show.** Cymbidium growers who would like a good chance at winning ribbons or even a trophy should consider entering cut sprays. This year, the lone cut

spray won both best cut spray in show and best green, bronze, brown or polychrome cut spray. Next year, when you bring your blooming cymbidium to display, bring a sterile knife, too; it might be worth cutting that spike and entering it in the cut spray category.

- **Five Cities Orchid Show Report.** Jeff Thompson installed the OSSB display at the Five Cities Show. Don Brown's *L. Santa Barbara Sunset* 'Showtime' was the Best Cattleya in Show and the Reserve Champion Plant in Show. Congratulations!
- **Native Orchid Conference, May 17-20, 2002.** Malaysia too daunting as a conference location? Check out the Native Orchid Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. This small conference (limited to 150 people) features some big names in the world of native orchids. A sixty dollar registration fee entitles the participant to two days of lectures with lunch each day and access to the sales area. Two days of optional field trips will give registrants opportunities to see native orchids blooming in the wild in the Green Swamp Preserve and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. For more information, contact Mark Rose at (336)656-7991 or nativeorchids@yahoo.com
- **Sad News.** Fordyce "Red" Marsh passed away March 18 at the age of 93. Marsh was a past president of the Orchid Digest Corporation and of three southern California orchid societies. He and his wife Trudi were members of numerous orchid societies, including our own OSSB. He was known as a species grower and as a generous, considerate man and will be missed in the orchid world. He is survived by his wife Trudi and by his three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his name to The Orchid Digest Corporation Endowment Fund, c/o Diane Booth, Treasurer, 8000 Bobbyoyar Avenue, West Hills, CA 91304.
- **Welcome New Members**, including Mia Jackson, Monica Dittrich and Richard Stackhouse. Frank Methmann just changed his phone number; change your roster to read 566-0839.

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

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
Heidi Kirkpatrick, Secretary
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