

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



## **Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2002**

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

### **PROGRAM**

**Milton Carpenter** of Everglades Orchids  
will speak about

#### **New Trends in Warmth Tolerant Oncidinae Intergenerics**

We can look forward to another internationally recognized speaker at our June meeting. Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids in Florida is a past president of the American Orchid Society and a breeder of warmth tolerant cymbidiums and oncidinae intergenerics, with 42 years of growing experience. His plants have received numerous awards, so come learn about these beauties that will tolerate a wide range of growing conditions. (Remember, oncidinae intergeneric hybrids may include oncidiums, odontoglossums, miltonias, or other members of the oncidium alliance.) Bring your wallets, because our speaker will be providing the raffle table and bringing sale plants!

#### **Pre-Program Potting Seminar**

*6:45 pm -7:15 pm*

Dick Swain will give a cymbidium potting and culture seminar prior to the June meeting. If your cymbidiums need a little help, come learn from an expert about what you should do for them!

#### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

##### **Orchid Society of Southern California Orchid Auction**

Registration and plant inspection, 6 pm; auction 7 pm. First Christian Church, 221 South Sixth Street, Burbank. [www.orchidssc.org](http://www.orchidssc.org)

June 10, 2002

##### **Three Centuries of Orchids in Books and Prints**

June 13–September

8, 2002

Exhibit at the Museum of Natural History. On July 25 at 7:30 pm, Dr. James Folson, Director of the Huntington, will present an illustrated lecture on the topic -- \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members.

See the Announcements section on the back page for other upcoming events.

### Summary of the May 2002 Meeting

- President Jeff Thompson welcomed guests and new members. He noted that he had one grumble and several compliments on the new meeting location (Louise Lowry Davis).
- President Thompson reminded everyone that putting a little something in the basket for speaker donations helps the society continue with its fine slate of monthly speakers.
- AOS representative Al Svoboda reported that in response to a declining AOS membership, affiliated societies will be asked to set up an AOS membership booth at their shows.
- Wayne Ferrell informed everyone that this year's Orchid Fair will be held at Earl Warren Showgrounds, concurrent with the SB Flower Show. He noted that there will be a division for orchid displays and that there are cash prizes for winning entries. (See Announcements section for more information.)
- In response to a request made to OSSB by the SB Zoo, SBOE and Jeff Thompson lent several blooming plants to decorate tables at a special donors' dinner. The Zoo will place an acknowledgement in their newsletter – free publicity!
- The membership welcomed back Jerry Rehfield, who was in attendance at the May meeting. Best wishes to Carol Rogers, who broke her arm.

### Program

Our May speaker was Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics, who spoke to us about multifloral paphiopedilums. By definition, a multifloral plant is one with more than one flower per spike. In general usage, a multifloral paph has its flowers open at the same time, in contrast to a sequential bloomer (e.g., *P. chamberlainianum*), where the next flower opens when the previous one fades.

Most multiflorals carry three to five flowers per spike. Many growers think immediately of *P. rothschildianum* or *P. stonei* type plants as examples of the class. But species from the subgenus *Brachypetalum* can be multifloral, too. In particular, *P. concolor* will carry two to four, or in rare cases, five flowers on a spike, opening roughly simultaneously. Hasegawa listed the species commonly considered "multifloral" as follows: *P. lowii* – can carry up to 6 flowers. *P. richardianum* – small form of *P. lowii* considered

by some to be merely a variety.

*P. lynniae* – similar to *P. lowii* but with spots on the dorsal.

*P. haynaldianum* – spots on petals. *Alba* form very similar to the *alba* form of *P. lowii*.

*P. parishii* – up to 12 flowers per spike. Will grow outdoors.

*P. dianthum* – similar to *P. parishii* but with 2-5 flowers per spike and a glabrous (non-hairy) ovary.

*P. stonei* – stripes on 1.5 – 2 inch dorsal.

*P. latifolium* – the former *P. stonei* var. *latifolium* 'Ruth Kennedy', an unusual plant that has shown to breed "true" (replicate itself) like a species when selfed.

*P. kolopakingii* – up to 16 flowers per spike.

Glandular exudate (crusty white stuff) on pouch as the flower ages.

*P. glanduliferum* – a species with much confusion in the past. Red-brown stripes on a yellow background.

*P. wilhelminae* – similar to *P. glanduliferum* but with a white background.

*P. philippinense* – long petals without a twist.

*P. roebelinii* – similar to *P. philippinense* but with corkscrew petals.

*P. adductum* – originally called *P. elliotianum*.

*P. anitum* – similar to *P. adductum* but almost black flowers. Newly discovered.

*P. supardii* – 5-7 flowers per spike. Squiggly petals are asymmetric.

*P. rothschildianum* – huge flower with striking maroon stripes. Background may be white or yellow; petals may be droopy or outthrust.

*P. sanderianum* – petals to 3 feet. Lost in most collections during WWII; rediscovered 15-20 years ago.

*P. ooi* – newly discovered; 6 foot spike with 12 flowers.

*P. gigantifolium* – recently discovered; similar to *P. stonei* but with different petals and large leaves.

Growers, of course, want to use multiflorals as parents, but have found that they breed better within their group. Breeding with another group often results in a high percentage of color breaks on flowers and many seedlings with crippled flowers; *P. philippinense* x *P. micranthum* is an example, where the latter is a single-flowered species from subgenus *Parvisepalum*. However, the seedlings that do turn out can be spectacular, such as *P. Harold Koopowitz* (*P. rothschildianum* x *P. malipoense*), which has two 7 – 10 inch flowers per

spike. Future breeding? *P. sanderianum* hybrids for long petals and quick flowering out of flask. *P. rothschildianum* hybrids crossed with *P. parishii*

hybrids to get big dorsals and lots of flowers per spike.

## **The American Orchid Society Needs You (and Why You Should Join)**

By Heidi Kirkpatrick

Eighty-one years ago, a small group of people met in space rented from Harvard University. They were orchid enthusiasts, and they were the founders of a society that has grown to be the largest special interest organization in the world.

At this point, you are probably expecting little more than a press release for the AOS. That would be easy to write. The AOS publishes three acclaimed magazines: ***Orchids***, the monthly magazine for members; ***Awards Quarterly***, a pictorial review of awards from the AOS judging system; and ***Lindleyana***, a venue for scientific reports on orchids. The new International Orchid Center in Florida sounds magnificent, housing AOS offices library collections and archives, and boasting three and half acres of gardens and 8000 square feet of greenhouses.

But you can read about the AOS at its informative website, [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org).

Instead, I want to talk opinion – or why you should give the AOS your support in the form of membership.

You might ask, “What do I get for plonking down my money?” Most tangibly, you will receive ***Orchids***, a publication of orchid articles, photos, and advertisements. Admittedly, some months it bores me silly; I skim the ads, look at the photos, and put it away. The same goes for the ***Smithsonian*** or the ***Natural History*** magazines, to which I subscribe. Any publication aimed at a broad readership is bound to miss my interests every now and again. But some months, I steal any moment I can to read it, compulsively, comprehensively, letting my toddler sit in the high chair after breakfast and please just wait another moment while Mommy finishes this page.

But the AOS is more than a magazine. It is also a judging system that enlivens our shows, drives breeders to excel, and gives hobby growers cultural goals to which they can aspire. Certainly, there are flaws. Something that looks fabulous in the cold snows of the Midwest might not get a second look in tropical Florida or coastal California. Judges are human. I would postulate that the orchid world is more interesting because of AOS judging. And judging battles make good gossip for the rest of us.

Beyond judging, beyond the publications, the AOS is an advocate for all of us who grow orchids. It strives to educate the public, which, by the way, is a stated goal of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara. The AOS supports orchid research; while you may claim you don't care about the latest taxonomical revision of *Phalaenopsis*, I would remind you that plenty of people last century thought it was stupid when a certain class of *Cypripedium* got the new name *Paphiopedilum*. Much orchid research will affect you, even if only indirectly via

breeders and nurseries.

And now I come to one of two sticky topics which seem to rouse the most controversy: conservation. The AOS plays a prominent role in orchid conservation. For example, when the USDA revised its orchid importation regulations, its representatives met with the AOS as the premier orchid organization in the country; then it sent representatives to the AOS general meeting to report on revised rules.

Okay, maybe you don't agree with the importation regulations. Without AOS intervention, perhaps those regulations would have been worse. Maybe you don't agree with AOS conservation policies. Tell Al Svoboda! Not only is he our society's AOS representative, but he is vice-chair of the Conservation Committee. Your voice will be heard by the AOS, where it might be ignored as insignificant by the US government.

Of course, like any governmental bureaucracy, the AOS spends money, your money. And here is the second topic about which I have heard complaints: the International Orchid Center.

It's in Florida; they're ignoring the West Coast. It's a waste of money.

It's too extravagant; the AOS doesn't need a special facility with over three acres of gardens.

I say it is about time that the AOS is open to members and to the public. It is about time that the extensive AOS library and archives are accessible. It is about time that the AOS has a showcase for orchids. The American Rose Society is affiliated with test gardens all over the country; the AOS should have a venue for showing the public these plants we love so well. Because the AOS is the largest horticultural organization (and because it received generous monetary and plant donations), it should have a facility that reflects this status in the horticultural world.

Of course, I would love to have the IOC within driving distance. But I have to acknowledge that many large donations came from Florida, not the least of which was the Vaughn estate. I am reassured to see prominent West-Coast names listed on committees and as trustees (including our own Al and Sandy Svoboda); growers on the West Coast do have a voice.

Having touted the virtues of the AOS, I would like to finish with a few words about the responsibilities we all have as orchid growers. Just as it is a civic duty of US citizens to vote or serve on a jury, you might consider supporting the AOS and other orchid organizations as a civic duty of an orchid grower. After all, without orchid societies, large and small, orchid growing could be a very lonely hobby indeed.

## Announcements

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Orchid Digest Summer Institute.** Two, two-day, intensive study courses are again offered by the folks at *Orchid Digest*. For more information or to enroll, mail to The Orchid Digest, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108, or check the website at [www.orchiddigest.org](http://www.orchiddigest.org) *Part I. Tropical Forests: Their Epiphytes and Their Conservation.* June 22-23, 2002. \$125 for *Orchid Digest* members and \$175 for non-members. Limited to 75 enrollees. Instructors: Harold Koopowitz and Tito Marchant. *Part II. Slipper Orchids in Depth.* July 6-7, 2002. \$250 for *Orchid Digest* members and \$300 for non-members. Limited to 30 enrollees. Instructors: Harold Koopowitz and Norito Hasegawa.
- **International Phalaenopsis Alliance 8<sup>th</sup> Phalaenopsis Symposium.** July 12-14, 2002, at the Hyatt Valencia Hotel in Valencia. Lectures, sales, blooming phals. Check out [www.phal.org](http://www.phal.org) or contact Jim Sloniker at (805)642-4357.
- **Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Fair.** July 12-14, 2002. SBOE will be open Friday and Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 9 am to 5 pm. The Orchid Fair with lots of vendors will be held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Flower Show at Earl Warren Showgrounds, Friday from noon to 5 pm, Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. A chance for serious retail mania!
- **Orchid Digest Membership Head Count.** To be affiliated with the Orchid Digest and have an Orchid Digest Show Trophy, a society must have a certain percentage of members who are also Orchid Digest members. It is head count time for us! If you subscribe to the OD, please call Jeff Thompson (563-4376), email Heidi Kirkpatrick ([g\\_pierce@juno.com](mailto:g_pierce@juno.com)) or tell one of us at the upcoming meeting.
- **OSSB BBQ Picnic.** The annual BBQ picnic is in danger of falling by the wayside! We need a volunteer to organize the caterer, the location and the date. If no one steps forward, there will be no BBQ. Call Jeff Thompson (563-4376) for more information.
- **Email OSSB Newsletter.** If you would like to try receiving your newsletter via email (and thereby saving the society a little money, especially with postage going up again), email your newsletter editor, Heidi Kirkpatrick, at [g\\_pierce@juno.com](mailto:g_pierce@juno.com) for a trial email in July.

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