

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



**Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2002**

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

## **PROGRAM**

**Steve Champlin** of Floralia Orchids  
will speak about  
**Laelias of Brazil**

Brazil is home to many of the cattleya alliance orchids that we know and love. In April, we learned about cattleyas of Brazil. Now we can hear about the wonderful laelia species found in this South American country. Stephan Champlin of Floralia Orchids is an accredited AOS judge and an authority on laelias and cattleyas. Prior to taking over at Floralia, he was manager and cattleya hybridizer at Stewart Orchids. Floralia is a South American nursery noted for its cattleya hybrids. And Floralia always has intriguing plants at the Orchid Fair. Champlin will be providing the plant table, so bring your money! And bring your laelia and cattleya questions!

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Three Centuries of Orchids in Books and Prints**  
8, 2002

Continuing exhibit at the Museum of Natural History.

June 13–September

**Santa Barbara Orchid Fair**

New Location! This year's Fair (all those lovely vendors) will be held at *Earl Warren Showgrounds* in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Flower Show. Come see the flower show; admission is free. Or put your

July 12-14, 2002

orchids in the show (see announcements). Show hours: Friday noon to 5 pm; Saturday 9 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 4 pm.

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, the originator of the Orchid Fair, will be open with their luscious \$7.50 specials to lure us. Nursery hours: Friday and Saturday 8 am to 5 pm; Sunday 9 am to 5 pm.

Cal-Orchid will also be open for the Fair: Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm; Sunday 9 am to 4 pm.

### Summary of the June 2002 Meeting

- President Jeff Thompson welcomed our many June guests.
- President Thompson noted that green society name tags now cost \$5.50. Members who wear their name tags to the meeting each get a raffle ticket for a chance at first pick from the raffle table.
- Wayne Ferrell reminded everyone that this year's Orchid Fair vendors will be at Earl Warren Showgrounds. (See Calendar section for more information.)
- President Thompson and Show Chair Tom Ball informed the membership that the financial and logistical difficulties associated with last year's Fall Show have made it unlikely that the society will have a Fall Show this year. As always, the board is receptive to suggestions for scaled-down versions of the Fall Show this year or in future years.
- President Thompson told the membership that no one has signed up to organize the August BBQ, so it seems that there is not enough interest to continue the BBQ this year.

#### Program

Vice President Frank Methmann introduced our June speaker, Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids in Florida. Carpenter has spent 42 years growing orchids and is past President of the American Orchid Society.

Prior to beginning his talk, Carpenter honored orchid breeder and AOS judge emeritus Leo Holguin with the AOS Gold Medal for meritorious service to the orchid world. See this month's editorial for a report on this event.

Carpenter called his talk "The Road Less Traveled." He lives in South Florida, where summer temperatures are in the 90s and orchids of the warm tropics flourish, but he grows orchid genera usually associated with cool climates. He treated us to a visually stunning tour of warm growing cymbidiums and oncidium intergenerics.

Carpenter grows in two 4000 square foot greenhouses plus a lush garden. The garden must endure an occasional killing freeze to 28°F. In the summer, with outside temperatures of 95°F, the

uncooled portions of his greenhouse will reach about 100°F. In the miltoniopsis section of his greenhouse, air conditioning keeps nighttime temperatures at 60°F.

Many of Carpenter's favored heat-tolerant cymbidiums, of which he showed a few, are descendants of *Cym. ensifolium*, which does exceptionally well in Florida. He notes that *Cym. Golden Elf 'Sundust'*, a Paul Gripp hybrid, blooms continuously for up to 18 months in the heat of South Florida. Some of the other cymbidium hybrids Carpenter favors are listed below.

*Cym. Everglades 'Diamond Jubilee' AM/AOS* – creamy flower with red lip.

*Cym. Milton Carpenter 'Everglades Gold'* – patented. 10 cm golden yellow flowers with red markings on lip. Blooms twice a year.

*Cym. Valerie Absolonova* – Carpenter's crossing of Peter Pan and Golden Elf with light yellow flowers with red spotted lips.

Much of Carpenter's work with warmth tolerant oncidium intergenerics stems from breeding by Goodale and Mae Moir of Hawaii. One of his favorite species for warmth tolerant is *Milt.*

*Spectabilis var. moreliana*, which does well in South Florida. Among the wonderful blooms he showed were the following intergeneric hybrids.

*Milt. Seminole Sand 'Velvet Quilt'* – striking Brazilian miltonia of deep red-purple lip and pattered yellow and tan petals.

*Milt. Seminole Blood 'Everglades Chief'* – Brazilian miltonia hybrid of rich reds and purples.

*Mtssa. Aztec 'Toni' HCC/AOS* – Brassia-type flower with striking red and maroon markings and a large lip. 5-7 flowers per spike.

*Mtssa. Royal Robe 'Jerry's Pick' HCC/AOS* – very large Brassia-type wine colored flowers with red lip.

*Mtssa. Tranquility 'Prince of Peace'* – flat pastel Brassia-type flowers.

*Bllra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning Joy'* – lovely soft lavender on a four inch flower with a large lip.

*Odtna. Tropical Heat Wave 'Everglades' AM/AOS* – saturated deep purple flower. *Milt. Spectabilis x Odcdm. Hyperry.*

*Vuyl. Fall in Love 'Lovely Lady'* – large pastel pink flowers.

*Wils. Flaming Space 'Flash Gordon'* – deep red flowers with white. Lip with yellow marking. 24" spikes. Cross of *Onc. sphacelatum* x *Od. Flaming Plane.*

*Cptra*. New Dimension – *Odcdm*. Big Mac x *Baptistonia echinata*. These three genera had not been crossed before, so Carpenter was allowed to name the new artificial genus ... Carpenterara.

## American Orchid Society Gold Medal Presented to Leo Holguin at OSSB Meeting

Carpenter added that these and other flowers, plus cultural information, can be found on his website, [www.evergladesorchids.com](http://www.evergladesorchids.com).

By Heidi Kirkpatrick

The June meeting of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara was a special meeting. It was something extraordinary not only for our society, but for any orchid society. In June, those of us present (including me, runny nose and all) witnessed the presentation of the American Orchid Society's highest honor: a Gold Medal.

The AOS grants a number of awards, all of which are esteemed by orchid growers. The Award of Distinction (AD) and Award of Quality (AQ) recognize new breeding trends and improved breeding quality. Peculiar little species that might never win a flower quality award can be given a Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR). Plants of horticultural value might win a Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM). And when the judges can't figure out what sort of award to present to a plant they like, they give out a Judges' Commendation (JD).

Most awards that are given out each year reflect flower quality as determined by a 100 point scale. Highly Commended Certificates (HCCs) go to blooms that earned 75 to 79 points. A flower earning a score of 80 to 89 points receives an Award of Merit (AM). The prestigious First Class Certificate (FCC) is given to flowers with scores of 90 points or more.

You may have noticed that these awards all go to a worthy *plant*. Cultural certificates recognize exceptional growers rather than exceptional flowers. A Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) is given to a grower who exhibits a particularly well-grown specimen plant with lots of flowers. Recently, the AOS added a new category for CCMs of 90 points or more: Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE). While everyone loves an awarded plant, most hobbyists covet the cultural awards that recognize their accomplishments. Case in point: Our own Don Brown just received an AM/AOS for an *Epi. falcatum*, but I bet he is prouder of the 99 point CCM (pre-CCE category) he received for growing a magnificently large *Dend. speciosum*.

This brings me rather meanderingly back to that ultimate recognition from the AOS, the Gold Medal. Like the cultural awards, the Gold Medal is presented to a person rather than a plant. A recipient of the AOS Gold Medal has had an overwhelming influence on the orchid world and the AOS.

Gold Medals are not given out lightly. Prior to our June meeting, there had been a mere 52 Gold Medals presented in the 80 year history of the AOS. Only 51 people have rated the AOS's highest recognition. (Merritt Huntington has received two Gold Medals for his tireless involvement in the AOS.)

Let's do a little math here. That averages to less than one Gold Medal a year. Furthermore, Gold Medals usually are presented at AOS Trustees Meetings rather

than local society meetings. And, to emphasize the rarity of what we witnessed in June, consider that there are some 500 societies and organizations worldwide affiliated with the AOS. There are an awful lot of monthly society meetings out there that will never be graced by the presentation of a Gold Medal.

We were lucky. Past-AOS president Milton Carpenter, our June speaker, was the perfect presenter of the award. Ned Nash was the perfect facilitator. I have been told that Nash, who lives locally now after working in Florida for the AOS, can talk almost anyone into almost anything. He talked the recipient, Leo Holguin, into coming to our meeting, and somehow did so without spoiling the surprise. And Leo Holguin was the perfect recipient.

Holguin is one of the big names in cattleya breeding from an era past, a man who helped push cattleyas into the world of meristem cloning. He and Ernest Hetherington (another Gold Medal recipient) worked at Armacost and Royston, one of the finest nurseries of its time. Later, when Armacost and Royston became Stewart Orchids and moved to Carpinteria, Leo Holguin was there, working tirelessly at the nursery. His hybrids are many of the big names in cattleya awards and cattleya breeding. Growers of cattleyas might recognize the names C. Irene Holguin or Lc. Persepolis, just two of the many fine crosses he made.

At our June meeting, Milton Carpenter described Leo Holguin as a great teacher – a link, along with Ernest Hetherington, to the great orchidist B. O. Bracey from the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Holguin served in local societies and on the executive committee for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference, held in Long Beach. Moreover, Holguin was respected by both hobby and commercial groups.

Ned Nash, who worked at Stewart Orchids for Leo Holguin for 18 years, described Holguin as a man who made those at the nursery feel like family. Fred Stewart declared that Holguin was the best manager of people he'd ever seen. And Ernest Hetherington, a previous Gold Medal recipient, observed that he and Holguin worked together for the same company virtually all their lives. (Holguin was hired September 1935, Hetherington, February 1936.)

It is a spectacular honor to be awarded an AOS Gold Medal. Perhaps the sweetest moment of the evening came when a tearful Holguin admitted he had never expected to receive one. This was a fitting comment from a man widely known for his humility.

For those of us in attendance in June of 2002, it was an opportunity to witness the recognition of someone who has given so much to the orchid world.

---

## **Announcements**

- **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.
- **Orchid Fair and Santa Barbara Flower Show Exhibits.** Ambitious exhibitors can show their orchids at the Flower show. Entry deadline was July 1, but late entries will be accepted as room permits. Call Barbara Schneider for more info at 648-3376 ext. 136 or evenings 648-7322. Divisions include 100 square foot garden displays, 50 square foot table displays, or a group of 5 orchids of the same genus. Classes for the group of five are cattleya, cymbidium, dendrobium, oncidium, pendrobium (?!), or other genus. There is a small entry fee, but winning exhibits get cash prizes.
- **Paul Gripp Featured as an Orchid Digest Doer.** Congratulations to our own Paul Gripp, who appears as a “Digest Doer” in the current (July-Sept. 2002) issue of the *Orchid Digest!* In every issue, the magazine highlights a prominent orchidist who leaves his or her mark on the orchid world. Just in case you didn’t know, Paul Gripp has been president of the Cymbidium Society of America and President of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show (4 times!), plus a member for 15 years of the Research Committee of the American Orchid Society. He has spoken at World Orchid Conferences and traveled all over the world to see orchids in their native habitats. Thanks for being part of our society, Paul!
- **Email OSSB Newsletter.** If you would like to try receiving your newsletter via email (and thereby saving 37 cents postage plus printing costs each month) send me, your newsletter editor, an email at [g\\_pierce@juno.com](mailto:g_pierce@juno.com). Saves me labor, too! – Heidi Kirkpatrick

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