

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2003

**Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
1232 De La Vina (at De La Vina and Victoria)**

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

Potting Demonstration begins at 7:10 pm

Program

Kevin Porter of Curved Air Orchids
will speak to us about

Paphiopedilums

Want to learn more about the wonderful world of lady slipper orchids? These delightful orchids are the subjects of some hot breeding these days, not to mention being at the center of controversy on orchid importation regulations. A number of paphs make fine houseplants; others are suitable for outdoor, frostfree growing in our area. Come hear the wisdom of an acknowledged expert paphiopedilum breeder. Kevin Porter is the proprietor of Curved Air Orchids and will tell us more about the world of paphiopedilum. Be sure to bring your wallets; Porter's paphs are very tempting.

Potting Demonstration: In keeping with the paphiopedilum theme, Al Svoboda will do this month's potting demonstration. Come get some ideas on how to repot your plants.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale

April 12-13, 2003

Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA. Contact: Conrad Kumata at (408)966-8335

Orchid Festival at the Flower Fields
2003

April 12-13,

From I-5, east on Palomar Airport Rd, left on Paseo del Norte Rd in Carlsbad, CA.

Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire

May 3-4, 2003

Crossroads Shopping Center, Hwy 1 at Rio Rd, Carmel, CA. Contact: Ida Hale at (831)646-8724

Summary of the March 2003 Meeting

- President Jeff Thompson welcomed guests and reminded everyone to pay **annual dues!** Dues are **\$25**. Checks should be made out to OSSB and mailed to Carole Cowan, 209 Cedar Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. Or pay your dues at the next meeting.
- Congratulations to Don Brown, whose plant won Best Dendrobium of Show at the Five Cities Show. Thanks are due to Don Brown and Jeff Thompson for installing our society's tabletop display and to everyone who lent plants for the show.
- Jeff Thompson announced that Norm and Joyce Wieder have agreed to monitor the orchids at the zoo during the summer and contact zoo staff if there are problems with the irrigation system.
- Meryl Wieder has agreed to track money for the summer BBQ, but the society still needs someone to organize the event. If you are interested, call Jeff at 563-4376.

Program

Our March speaker was our own Betty Watt, a long-time exhibitor at the spring show. Betty installed her first display in 1983 and has learned a great deal about display rules and aesthetics. She found out the hard way that all blooming flowers must be orchids! Betty spoke to us about exhibiting at the show, and demonstrated how to make attractive corsages and centerpieces, both of which have divisions in the spring show.

Betty began with the construction of three centerpieces using orchids. The first consisted of a tall vase, one piece of curly willow, two branches of huckleberry, and one cymbidium spray. This simple arrangement was accomplished very quickly, and yet make a striking statement.

The second centerpiece used a short, ceramic basket. Rather than water, the branches and sprays were inserted into presoaked oasis, a florist's foam that holds stems upright. Betty noted that the mechanics, such as oasis, always should be hidden; she inserted a number of pieces of jade plant to

cover the oasis. A short, dormant branch pruned from Betty's plum tree provided support for the orchid spray.

The third centerpiece used oasis and a tall plum branch with the cymbidium spray, plus four shorter lily spikes, some fern as accent, and straw (packing material retrieved from a dumpster) to hide the mechanics.

Following the theme of hiding mechanics, Betty noted that plants in the show need to be in attractive containers. She demonstrated one possibility of hiding a plant pot with a 5 gallon ceramic cache pot. At the bottom went bark to weight the pot. Above that, Betty placed plastic to protect the plant from the bark, then sphagnum to dress the top. She noted that 30% of a judge's score for a tabletop display is for the condition of the plants. Therefore, it is useful to clean the leaves and cut (with a sterile implement) damaged leaves to neaten the appearance of the plant. Aesthetically, Betty noted that similar plants in similar containers make a better display.

The membership was then treated to a short course in corsage making, complete with materials for each attendee to practice making a corsage and a boutonniere. Amongst much laughter, a number of decent corsages were created. Betty encouraged everyone to enter the corsage division at the show, noting that our VP, Phil Watt, entered as a ten-year-old and won three ribbons.

For the corsage, members poked #24 wire through the stem, near the base, of a cattleya bloom. When folded parallel to the stem, the wire supports the flower. Florist's tape – green tape that is sticky when stretched, hides the wire and stem and attaches a bit of fern. A ribbon finished each corsage and a straight pin attached it to clothing.

Boutonnieres were similar, but using a dendrobium phalaenopsis hybrid flower and a #30 wire. As den phal stems are weak and short, the wire was folded in half and both ends

were poked through the back of the flower
itself, just above the lip

Thanks to Alice Gripp for the donation of
orchid blooms!

2003 Santa Barbara International Show Report

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who was involved in the society's display. Particular thanks go to Jeff Thompson, who, with his apprentice, built us the wonderful piano as the centerpiece of our display. Jeff puts an incredible amount of work into our displays, and our society would be poorer if he chose not to give so freely of his time. Thanks also to the many people who brought plants and worked on the installation. Your support enabled the society to have a very fine display.

Congratulations to OSSB for winning Best Display less than 100 square feet – non-commercial/societies. The display also contained the following awards and ribbons:

AOS Awards

CCM of 85 points to *Microterangis hariotiana* 'Ann Marie' – Clara and George Brown

HCC of 76 points to *Wilsonara* Matoaka Road 'Yellow Moon' – Bill Robson

Show Trophy

Best Botanical Specimen Blooming Plant to *Microterangis hariotiana* 'Ann Marie' – Clara and George Brown

Ribbons (editor's note: my apologies for not knowing ownership of many of the plants; Masdevallias belong to either Josh Davis or Norm and Joyce Wieder)

Blue – *Sophranitis coccinea*

Red – *Renanthera imshootiana* 'Red Veil' (Norm and Joyce Wieder)

Red – *Masdevallia coccinea*

Red – *Wilsonara* Matoaka Road 'Yellow Moon' (Bill Robson)

Red – *Baptistonia echinata* (Alan Chovil) Yellow – *Phragmipedium* Normont (Clara and George Brown)

Yellow – *Masdevallia* Charisma

Honorable Mention – *Masdevallia* Pixie Leopard

Many OSSB members had plants in other displays, often their own. Their list of awards include:

Cym. Beauty Trophy to *Cym.* Australian Midnight – Santa Barbara Orchid Garden & Library (Paul Gripp)

Best Educational Display – Santa Barbara Orchid Garden & Library

Best Group of 5 of More Orchids Excluding Cym and Catts to Phrag Don Wimber – Lance Schroeder

Best Standard/Intermediate/Novelty/Miniature Cym, 1 Cut Spray to *Cym.* Mighty Firefall 'Medoc' and *Cym.*

Green Thumb 'Hidden Valley' – both belonging to Dick Swain

BM/CSA to *Paph.* Pinochio 'Lillian's Joy' – Lance Schroeder

GM/CSA to Lance Schroeder for an outstanding paph display

Congratulations to fine displays from: Al and Sandy Svoboda, Betty Watt, Phill Watt and Angela Strahler, Dick and Louise Swain, Lance Schroeder, Paul and Janet Gripp (alias Santa Barbara Orchid Garden and Library). Beautiful corsages were entered by Loretta Berlin, Josh Davis, Julianne Lewis (yellow ribbon), Angela Strahler (two green ribbons) and Phil Watt (two blue ribbons).

OSSB commercial members won the following trophies:

Best Novelty Cym Potted Plant to *Cym.* Australian Midnight 'Santa Barbara' – Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

Best *Miltonia* to *Milt.* (Gascogne 'Vienne' x Pearl Ono 'Red') – Orchids of Los Osos

Best Paph in Show and Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy to *Paph.* *lowii* 'Los Osos' – Orchids of Los Osos

Best Commercial 100 square foot Display to Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

Other awards given out at the show included:

Best Orchid in Show to *Dtps.* Taisuco Bright '101' – Symphony Orchids

Grand Champion of Show to *Cym.* Pearl Dawson 'Gray Day' B/CSA – Weegie Caughlan

Reserve Champion of Show to *Cym.* Icho Tower 'Trinity' S/CSA, AM/AOS – Weegie Caughlan

Sweepstake 'Best Display in Show' – Symphony Orchids

Most Artistic Display in Show – Ventura Farms

Design of Distinction – Andy's Orchids

Best Theme of Show – Santa Maria Orchid Society

AOS Show Trophy – Malibu Orchid Society

Best Miniature Cym of Show to *Cym.* (Avante Garde x Last Tango) 'Cinnabar' – Weegie Caughlan

Orchid Digest Show Trophy – Malibu Orchid Society

International Phalaenopsis Alliance Show Trophy to (*Dtps.* New Candy 'NFS' x *P.* Luchia Landy 'Snow #101'
– Symphony Orchids

Best Catt Specimen to *Lc.* Stonehouse – Cal-Orchid

Best Table Display – The Orchid House

Best Table Display Amateur – 5 Cities Orchid Society

Announcements

- **Plat Donations.** Look in next month's newsletter for details on plant donations received by the society from vendors at the spring show. I hear that some neat stuff should be showing up on our raffle tables in the coming months!
- **Lectures at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA**
 - *1st Orchid Digest Distinguished Lecture*, Saturday, June 28, 2003, 4 pm at Friend's Hall. Speaker is Angel Mirro, one of America's greatest living orchid artists. Admission is free while seating lasts.
 - *An Evening of Orchid Entertainment*, Saturday, June 28, 2003, 6 pm. Orchid dinner and "Orchids and Other Flowers in Three Dimensions: The Artistry of James Comstock." Admission \$75 per person. Purchase tickets before June 15, 2003 from www.orchiddigest.org or Simone Friend, Program Coordinator, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740.
 - *3rd Orchid Digest Summer Institute*, July 26-27, 2003. Subject is "The Cattleya Alliance." Two day lecture and hands-on lab workshop on taxonomy, anatomy, microscopic structure, natural history. Class size limited to 30. Instructors are Harold Koopowitz and Paul Tuskes. \$250 for Orchid Digest members and \$300 for non-members. See www.orchiddigest.org
- **18th World Orchid Conference.** If you attended the spring show, you may have noticed the booth advertising the 18th WOC, 11-20 March 2005. It will be held in Dijon, France, in conjunction with the international flower show Florissimo. Attendees of the Cymbidium Congress (like your editor) were treated to a video production that convinced us the 18th WOC will be elegant, will boast good food and wine – Dijon is after all the capital of Burgundy – will tempt with beautiful tourist opportunities in the region, and will have more people than you can shake a stick at. My one experience with a WOC has me lusting for more; if I can afford it, I'll be going! Want to find out more? Check out their website at www.WOC2005.org for details on hotels and registration.

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
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