

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



**Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2004**

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

*Meeting begins at 7:30 pm*

## **Program**

Speaker to be announced

The original January speaker had to withdraw at the last moment, but Phil Watt and Don Brown are working on something interesting for us.

## **Announcements**

### ➤ **PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2004!**

Annual dues for the calendar year of 2004 are \$25. Your dues pay for speakers and the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Your grace period to pay is through April. If you do receive a May newsletter, you probably forgot to pay your dues.

You will find a form in this newsletter for your address, telephone number, and email address. If any of this has changed since the printing of the last roster in April 2003, please submit the form with your check. I hope you are looking forward as eagerly as I am to another

year of orchids!

- **Looking for Lodging** – OSSB member Randy Arnowitz, his dog Sadie, and his orchids are looking for an affordable cottage or apartment to rent. Call him at 886-6278.

OSSB Officers for 2004

President – Phil Watt Vice President – Don Brown Treasurer – Carole Cowan Secretary – Heidi Kirkpatrick

### **Summary of the December 2003 Meeting**

Our December meeting was our annual society potluck, held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society. Your editor can report that everything she tried was delicious, including a rather embarrassing number of desserts that ended up on her plate. Thanks to everyone for once again making our potluck a grand feast. Thank you also to the donors of plants for the silent auction. And thanks to Meryl Wieder for her marvelous orchid art photography, which she shared with the membership in a splendid presentation. For those of us accustomed to the straight-forward sort of photography used to record the look of a flower, Meryl's artistic framing and presentation of orchids was a genuine treat.

### **CALENDAR**

The spring orchid show season is about to begin. This month, I am including an expanded calendar section with a large list of upcoming shows in this region, plus a few big ones of interest elsewhere for those members who like to travel. I am also including a little information about the monthly meetings of other, nearby societies. Southern California has lots of orchid societies; look them up at [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org).

***Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale*** February 5-8, 2004  
South Coast Plaza, Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa. Thursday, Friday: 10 am - 9pm. Saturday: 10 am - 8 pm. Sunday: 11 am - 6:30 pm. [www.foshow.com](http://www.foshow.com) or (714) 962-8165.

***Pacific Orchid Exposition "The Art of Orchids"*** February 20-22, 2004  
Festival Pavillion, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Friday: 10 am to 6 pm. Saturday: 9 am to 6 pm. Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit [www.orchidsanfrancisco.com](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.com)

***Five Cities Orchid Society Show*** March 5-7, 2004  
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande. Contact: (805)929-1791 or [orchidlady@earthlink.net](mailto:orchidlady@earthlink.net)

***59<sup>th</sup> Miami International Orchid Show*** March 5-7, 2004  
Coconut Grove Convention Center, 1700 S. Bayshore Dr., Miami, FL. Contact: Dorothy Bennett (305)661-1471 or [orchidot@aol.com](mailto:orchidot@aol.com)

***59<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show "The Wonderful World of Orchids"*** March 19-21, 2004  
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. Hours: 9 am to 5 pm. For more information, please visit [www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com).

***Greater New York International Orchid Show*** April 14-18, 2004  
Rockefeller Center, New York, NY. Contact: [daveh4742@aol.com](mailto:daveh4742@aol.com)

### **Nearby Orchid Societies**

- ***Santa Maria Orchid Society*** – first Wednesday, 7 pm, Veteran's Center, W. Tunnell and N. Pine St.
- ***Orchid Society of Southern California*** – second Monday of the month, 7:30 pm, First Christian Church, 221 South Sixth Street, Burbank.

- **Five Cities Orchid Society** – second Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm, Arroyo Grande Women’s Community Center, 211 Vernon Street.
- **Coastal Valley Orchid Society** – third Tuesday, 7 pm, Lompoc Library, North Ave and C St.
- **Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society** – third Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Carpinteria Library, 5141 Carpinteria Avenue.
- **Ventura County Orchid Society** – fourth Tuesday except December, 7:30 pm.

### **The Four Degrees of Orchids (or Making Orchid History into a Game)**

By Heidi Kirkpatrick

Allow me to agree again with our own Paul Gripp. “I love this history stuff.” But for those of you who find history on the dry side, this month I will make a bit of a game out of it.

Ever hear of that Hollywood game called “The Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon?” The aim is to link anyone in the world to Kevin Bacon in six moves. For example, Vincent Price was in a movie with Jack Nicholson, who was in a movie with Kevin Bacon, so Vincent Price is two degrees from Kevin Bacon.

Using the same concept, let’s meander through history to link Captain Bligh and the infamous mutiny on the H.M.S. *Bounty* to Charles Darwin using orchids to support his theory of evolution.

Bligh lived in an era of imperialism and discovery, with a burgeoning botanical exploration of the world by Europeans. In fact, botany was a driver behind Bligh’s fateful voyage; he was to transport breadfruit trees from Pacific tropical islands to the West Indies.

The idea was the brainchild of one Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), who encouraged the king to grant the commission and then organized preparations for the voyage. Banks himself is a giant in the historical world of botany; some regard him as the father of modern plant hunters.

Interestingly in common with Darwin, Banks was a poor student at school ... until he discovered botany.

Banks was hooked. His first trip, in 1766 to Newfoundland, resulted in the loss of most of his collections when they were thrown overboard to avoid a sinking of the ship. The next, with Captain Cook and the H.M.S. *Endeavor*, cost him 10,000 pounds of his own fortune, lasted almost three years, and resulted in an amazing bounty of botanical finds. The collecting was so abundant in “New Holland” (today’s Australia and New Zealand), that their first landing spot was dubbed Botany Bay.

What he learned about plant collecting served him well. When George III formed Kew Gardens in the 1770s, Banks was asked to assist as director. His abilities earned him 42 years as president of the Royal Society (1778-1820) and a baronetcy (1781). In the orchid

world, he was instrumental in the arrival of the first East Indian orchids to England in 1800.

Though Banks did not publish complete records of his voyage with Captain Cook, his journal was obtained by his friend Dawson Turner. Turner’s grandson published the work. This grandson was another grand figure in botany: Joseph Dalton Hooker.

Hooker was enthralled by the history of Banks’s travels and leapt at the opportunity for a four year Antarctic voyage. As a result of the trip, he published six volumes of flora, which earned him scientific respect. In 1847, he set forth again, this time to the Himalayas with a party of 56, the majority of which were “coolies” to carry equipment and provisions. This was a particularly productive trip for orchids and in fact horticulture in general.

When his father, then director of Kew, died in 1865, Hooker was appointed his successor. Upon the death of the great botanist John Lindley soon after Hooker became director, some 3000 orchid specimens from Lindley’s herbarium were presented to Kew. Hooker’s interest in orchids was amply displayed in his *Flora of the British Isles*, in which he described nearly 1300 species. This and some of his other copious work were listed as references by his friend, Charles Darwin (1809-1882), in the book *Fertilisation of Orchids*.

Darwin found a like-minded correspondent in Hooker. Hooker’s plentiful field observations led him to believe that plants only survived by adapting to their habitats. He readily supported Darwin’s theory that complex plants could not rely solely on self-fertilization, but had to propagate by cross-pollination to survive for generations. Others were not so supportive. When *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was published in 1859, a major complaint was the lack of proof to support Darwin’s theories.

To provide this proof, Darwin turned to orchids. Not only were they plentiful near his home, but he saw them as the “most singular and modified forms in the vegetable kingdom.” His extensive field studies resulted in *On the Fertilisation of Orchids by Insects*.

Captain Bligh was acquainted with Sir Joseph Banks (step 1), whose friend Dawson Turner (step 2) gave Bank's journal to his grandson Joseph Hooker (step 3), who corresponded prolifically with Charles Darwin (step 4). Mutiny on the *Bounty* to *Orchid Fertilisation* in four steps!

**Orchid Society of Santa Barbara 2004 Membership Form**

If you cannot delivery your dues in person at a meeting, please send your dues of \$25 to Carole Cowan, 209 Cedar Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. Don't send cash. Make your check payable to OSSB. If *anything* about your address, name, or telephone number has changed since the last roster, *please* include this form or give it to either Carole Cowan or Heidi Kirkpatrick at the meeting.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, and ZIP:

TELEPHONE (indicate work and/or home):

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Do you wish to receive your newsletter via email instead of U. S. Post?

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