

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara



Meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2004

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

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

Program

Christie Boyd of Island View Nursery

Curious about what happened to the old Stewart Orchids facility? Christie Boyd, sales manager at Island View Nursery, will give us an update.

CALENDAR

Five Cities Orchid Society Show

March 6-7, 2004

South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande. Contact: (805)929-1791 or orchidlady@earthlink.net. Preview, Friday, March 5, 6:30 – 9:30 pm, with \$20 ticket to benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.

59th 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.

Look for more SBIOS show events in this month's expanded calendar and announcements section!

San Diego Orchid Society Show

March 26-28, 2004

Scottish Rite Temple, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego. Contact: (619)448-3312 or phragmania@cox.net

OSSB Officers for 2004

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

Summary of the February 2004 Meeting

Your editor was unable to attend the February meeting. I am indebted to Don Brown for his fine notes that enabled me to present this report of the meeting.

– Heidi Kirkpatrick

- ***OSSB will have a booth at the Spring Show!*** We have to thank Alice Gripp of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for her generosity in helping us secure the booth. Thanks also to our president, Phil Watt, who facilitated arrangements. This year, the booth will be managed by Angela Watt (nee Strahler). Arrangements will be as in previous years; see the announcements section for a review of how to label your sale plants.
- **Carole Cowan**, our long-time treasurer, is looking to retire. OSSB is hugely indebted to Carole for the numerous hours she has devoted to our society. Now *OSSB needs a new treasurer*. Please contact Phil Watt (967-7565) if you are interested in serving your society. *OSSB needs your help!*
- See the announcements section for more on events at the spring show.

Program

With my fascination for history, I was very sorry to have missed our own Paul Gripp speak on the documentation and history of orchid growing. Paul has a very fine collection of orchid books and historical items, some of which he showed at the February meeting.

Unlike the history of, say, wine or beer making (I am having a glass of port to lubricate my writing), orchid growing does not have a very deep history. Despite this, lovers of orchid memorabilia, like Paul, have managed to gather an interesting collection of connections with the past, such as his first issue (1936) of the Australian Orchid Review, signed by the editor, or the more recent tome in Pleiones by Phillip Cribb, signed by the author.

However, historical materials come not only as books and periodicals, but as primary materials like letters from famous nurserymen to famous orchid growers, or catalogs listing orchids for sale and their prices. For example, Paul had a number of letters to or from Elliot

Rogers, one of the original orchid people here in Santa Barbara. Rogers was instrumental in starting the big spring show. Among the letters was one from Sid Rothwell, who worked for 60 years at McBean, one of the big name old British orchid nurseries. McBean's and Eric Young (of what would become the Eric Young Foundation), acquired the collection of the Odontoglossum specialist by the name of Charlesworth. Some of you may recognize this name from some of your species orchids, e.g., *Paph. charlesworthii*.

Another noteworthy British nursery was that of Stuart Low, the family of collectors who are recognized by such species as *Paph. lowii* and *Cym. lowianum*. Paul displayed documents relating to Low's, then noted that Norris Powell, of The Orchid House in Los Osos, bought much of the Low collection. This included a number of fine orchid paintings.

Orchid paintings themselves are historical documents. Many paintings from previous eras were made as records for orchid judges. Today, judges use the photographic camera to document awarded plants, but prior to color photography, paintings performed a similar function. Among Paul's collection is a 1904 watercolor of the famous *Paph. Maudiae* 'Magnificum'.

Paul himself is a wonderful example of another source of orchid history: the oral record. At the February meeting, Paul told the tale of *Cym. Rosanna* 'Pinky', which was bought for \$26,000 by Dos Pueblos Nursery, formerly a big name in Santa Barbara orchids.

The premium price was for supposedly the only piece of the plant. However, other pieces eventually turned up. The esteemed Ernest Hetherington paid \$2500 for a piece from Mrs. Ireland, another big Santa Barbara grower, but the plant was misnamed. (And you thought today's orchid prices were outrageous!)

Dos Pueblos Nursery had an important place in Santa Barbara orchid breeding. At the meeting, oral record came to the fore again as discussion brought out that Ned Nash of the American Orchid Society once worked for Dos Pueblos. (And if you want to learn more, come to the Cymbidium Congress,

where Paul's Dos Pueblos memorabilia will be displayed.)

Here is one last tidbit from Paul, called the O'Malley tie for rootless orchids. Wrap a soft

wire around the base or rhizome of a plant, run the wire out the bottom of the pot and secure it, then fill the pot with mix to hold the plant.

Announcements

Spring Show Events

- **OSSB Exhibit Installation** Wednesday, March 17. Final times will be announced at the March 10 meeting, or call Heidi Kirkpatrick (563-2894). In the past, plants for the exhibit needed to arrive by no later than one o'clock; this year probably will be similar. If your plants arrive after the exhibit is in place, there will be no room for them! Please make sure of the following: 1) your plants are clean of bugs and disease; and 2) your name is on the pot. We're looking for pretty flowers to put in our display, so be sure to bring your blooming plants!
- **OSSB Sales Booth** The sales booth will be managed by Angela Watt (967-7565; look her up under Strahler in your 2003 roster). OSSB receives 25% of the sales price of each plant. Sellers need to make a numbered list of their plants. Each plant needs an orange sales tag. On this sales tag should be three pieces of information: 1) the price of the plant; 2) the initials of the seller; and 3) the number of the plant from the seller's plant list. Consult Angela by telephone or at the March meeting if you have plants to sell; expect to deliver your plants to Earl Warren Showgrounds prior to the show, probably Wednesday during set-up – details at the March meeting!
- **Preview Party** Thursday, March 18, 2004, 6 – 9 pm. OSSB members \$30 (a show best buy). Non-members \$40. The preview party benefits diabetes research through the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. Included is buffet supper, no-host bar, live jazz music, free entry to show and sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In most of the orchid world, the preview party is attended by the orchid community; the organizers (including our own Sandy and Al Svoboda) are trying to regain this tradition in Santa Barbara, thus the discount for society members. If you are interested in tickets, call Sansum Research at (805)682-7640; be sure to tell them you are an orchid society member. Alternatively, you can call Sandy and Al at (805)969-4536. Note: regular show tickets are \$10 (\$8 for seniors), so if you plan attend the show on more than one day, the preview party with its free, unlimited show entry would be well worth your money.
- **29th Annual Cymbidium Congress** March 20, 2004, University Club of Santa Barbara, 1332 Santa Barbara Street. Late registration is \$140 (after March 1) and includes 6 lectures, 2 panel discussions, free unlimited admission to the SB International Orchid Show, free admission to the Friday night show party, continental breakfast, luncheon, and gala awards banquet. The speakers are as follows: *Ray Dix* on red cymbidiums, *George Hatfield* on pendulous mini cymbidiums, *Milton Carpenter* on warmth tolerant cymbidiums, *Glen Decker* on phragmipedium breeding, *Norito Hasegawa* on section Barbata paphiopedilums, and *Francisco Baptista* on complex paphiopedilums. For more info, contact our own Al and Sandy Svoboda at 969-4536 or asvoboda@earthlink.net. (Rumor has it that Keith Andrews will be a bonus speaker at this year's congress!)
- **Orchid Nursery Open Houses** In addition to the wonderful sales area at the show, be sure to visit the local orchid nurseries that are open during the show. Santa Barbara Orchid Estate has a fine field for parking and boasts their famous \$7.50 specials. They're open Fri-Sat 8am - 5 pm and Sun 9am - 5pm. Walk across the street to Cal-Orchid. Or drive down to Carpinteria to visit Gallup and Stribling.

Other Announcements

- **PAY YOUR DUES!** Dues are \$25. Pay at the meeting, or send a check made out to OSSB to Carole Cowan, 209 Cedar Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. If *anything* about your name, address, telephone number, or email has changed since the last roster *please* provide the current information to Carole Cowan or Heidi Kirkpatrick. Can't remember if you paid? If your mailing label says "2003," you have not. Folks who don't pay won't be in the 2004 roster and will no longer receive the newsletter.

- **Home Gardening Symposium** Saturday, March 27, 2004, Santa Barbara City College, 8am-4:30pm. Over 20 topics including California natives, pest and disease control, erosion prevention and firescaping, irrigation, design, photography, vegetables, and the effects of horticulture practices on water quality. \$40 includes lectures, morning beverage and pastry, and buffet lunch. Plant and supply vendors will be on site. For more information, contact sponsors Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County (682-4726 x 117) or Ventura County (645-1455). Symposium is co-sponsored by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, University of California Cooperative Extension, and Environmental Horticulture Department of Santa Barbara City College. Pre-registration is advised.

- **Report on *L. anceps* at the zoo by Joyce and Norm Wieder** Thanks to the generosity of OSSB members, the Laelia Anceps Project continues to grow and bloom. Fred Lukas donated many *L. anceps* from the "Gallup Tree Trunk," perpetuating that historical tree (featured in *Sunset Magazine* years ago). Bill Robson gave a huge orchid plant already mounted on bark which will extend its roots to the zoo olive trees. Alice Gripp generously donated some beautiful plants from SBOE. Randall Umland and Norman Wieder both donated some great plants and came down to the zoo at 8 am to help mount them all. Meryl Wieder was there with her photo talents and telescopic lens to catch the action but ended up photographing it *and* becoming a part of it with Joyce Wieder by holding ladders and handing up tools. Unfortunately, Jeff Thompson was working in Los Angeles that day. He was missed as was his technical knowledge of the zoo's sprinkler system which was previously purchased with funds donated by OSSB. The Laelia Anceps Project was begun in 1997 as a cooperative effort between the Santa Barbara Zoo and the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara. The olive trees bearing orchids are behind the river otter compound.

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
Heidi Kirkpatrick, Secretary
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