



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, February 9, 2005

►► **NOTE THE LOCATION!** ◀◀

MacKenzie Adult Building

at MacKenzie Park

3111 State Street (at Las Positas)

enter parking lot on Las Positas

PROGRAM

Our Own **John Holson** will speak about

Mycorrhiza: The Symbiotic Relationship Between Fungi and Orchids

If we make new orchids using orchid seed in sterile flasks with agar, how do orchids manage to reproduce in the wild? Some of them may use a little help from fungi. Come learn more about how orchids and fungi co-exist from John Holson of Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Holson made a special study of the topic at UCSB and will give us some insights into this fascinating topic.

Don't forget to go to MacKenzie Adult Building while the city refurbishes Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS - It's Show Season!

February 10-13, 2005

Fascination of Orchids International Orchid Show

South Coast Plaza, Crate and Barrel Wing, 3333 Bean St., Costa Mesa. www.fascinationoforchids.com

February 18-20, 2005

San Francisco Orchid Society's Pacific Orchid Exposition "Orchid Reflections"

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Admission \$12, seniors \$8. www.orchidsanfrancisco.org or (415)665-2468.

March 4-6, 2005

60th Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show "Celebration of Orchids"

Fri-Sun, 9am - 5pm. Earl Warren Showgrounds. www.sborchidshow.com. OSSB will need volunteers for display installation and for the society sales booth. Details at the February meeting!

March 11-20, 2005

18th World Orchid Conference

Dijon, France.

March 12-13, 2005

UCI Arboretum Winter Orchid Show

Sales, lectures, repotting demos, Rowland cymbidium collection on display, \$2 admission. (949)824-5833.

March 19-20, 2005

Five Cities Orchid Show and Sale

\$4 admission. 800 W. Branch St, Arroyo Grande. www.fc.os.org or (805)929-1791.

Summary of the January 2005 Meeting

► President Phil Watt reminded everyone to renew their OSSB memberships and welcomed visitors, including Conrad Schmidt.

► **OSSB at MacKenzie Park.** Our monthly meetings will be at MacKenzie Park while the city renovates Louise Lowry Davis Center. We will return to Louise Lowry in July, or when the city has finished renovating. Watch your newsletter for details.

► **Spring Show Volunteers.** President Watt asked the membership for volunteers for the Spring Show, including people to assist with installation of the society display, sales help, and hospitality. The sign up sheets also will be available at the February meeting. Jeff Thompson, who is in charge of the society display, asked the membership for blooming orchids for the display. Plants should be at Earl Warren Showgrounds by **noon** to be guaranteed a spot in the display.

Program

Vice President Don Brown noted that we are fortunate to have our January speaker, Sandy Svoboda, in our society. In addition to being a judge for both the American Orchid Society (AOS) and Cymbidium Society of America (CSA), she is an AOS trustee and treasurer of the CSA.

Sandy spoke to us about weird and wonderful telipogons, which she studied as part of her requirements to earn an AOS judgeship. These cousins of the maxillarias are in the subfamily *Vandoideae*. Telipogons are characterized by tiny plants with huge flowers in proportion to the plants.

There are four genera that are part of the subtribe *Telipogoninae*. *Hofmeisterella eumicroscopica* is the only member of the genus; it is found at elevations of 1600-2400 meters. The genus *Stellastroglossum* has some 23 species, mostly in Peru and Ecuador. Though predominantly cool growers, the 15 members of the genus *Trichoceros* are considered the easiest of the family to grow.

The genus *Telipogon* was first described in 1815 by von Humboldt. Flowers are characterized by three small sepals that hide behind the petals and lip. The flowers can be an inch or larger in size, while the plant parts are smaller. Flowers are usually non-resupinate (lip on the top). Most orchids are resupinate, which means the lip is on the bottom. Telipogons also have a bristly column.

Telipogon flowers have no nectar and no

fragrance. Therefore, they attract insect pollinators solely by looks. Species of Tachinid flies are deceived into thinking telipogons are other flies.

These plants are found in high elevation cloud forests of Central and South America. Relative humidity in these regions nears 100%, but drainage is perfect, which may explain why telipogons have a reputation as difficult to grow. Some species are terrestrial, but most are epiphytes, growing on twigs. Individual species are found in small populations, which makes them vulnerable to habitat destruction.

To date, some 164 species have been discovered. Colombia boasts the lion's share with 57 species, including *T. wallisii*, which has received both a CBR and CCM from the AOS.

Sandy interjected with an overview of the AOS judging system. Among the awards that can be won is the Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR), given to a species of educational nature that has been described by a taxonomist. Well grown specimens can earn a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM), which is presented to the grower of the plant. A cultural award of 90 points or more becomes a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE). Plants of particular horticultural and aesthetic interest can be awarded a Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM).

In addition, the AOS presents awards based on flower quality. Judges use point scales to assess a flower's attributes, namely form, color, size, and substance or texture. Also important are the floriferousness of the plant and the habit or arrangement of the blooms. A First Class Certificate is awarded to plants with 90 or more points. 80 to 89 points earn Award of Merits. A plant must earn 75 points to receive a Highly Commended Certificate.

Since telipogons tend to be of a more botanical interest, most do not win flower quality awards such as HCCs. However, a few intrepid growers have been successful with members of this genus and have been rewarded for their success. The Costa Rican species *T. ampliflorus* has earned an AM and a CBR. A cultivated plant of *T. caulescens*, a species found in Panama, was awarded a CHM.

Though species of *Telipogon* are found in Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela and Bolivia, the easiest to grow are reputedly those from Costa Rica and Panama. Telipogons do not like sphagnum moss. However, growers have had success mounting them on tree fern and placing them over a container for moisture. Others use plastic pots with stone, tree fern and green moss. Watering is best about three times a week, with micro foggers for humidity and 60% light.

Announcements

- Thanks to last year's volunteers and officers. As your newsletter editor, I would like to thank, on behalf of the society, all the members who donated time and made a difference to our society last year.
- Thanks go to Phil and Angela Watt for receiving the vast amount of information from outgoing treasurer Carole Cowan and figuring out all the various "housekeeping" chores she did that are necessary to the running of the society.
 - Thanks go to Don Brown, last year's and this year's Vice President, for his efforts in bringing the society an impressive array of monthly speakers. I would like to note in particular our two prestigious foreign speakers (David Banks from Australia and Hendrik van der Hoven from South Africa), whose appearances at our monthly meetings were made possible in part by donations to the *Special Speakers Fund*.
 - Thanks also go to two fixtures in our society: Tom Ball, who is Show Chair for our Fall Show; and Jeff Thompson, who makes and installs all the hardware for our society exhibits at both spring and fall shows.
 - Thanks to the volunteers who help our monthly meetings run smoothly, from set-up and tear-down to the plant auctions. This includes Paul Gripp for his educational discussions of the show table and Carol Rogers for running the raffle.
 - Thanks to everyone else who has volunteered time to help the society at the spring and fall shows. (Your editor apologizes for being unable to list everyone's name.) A society thrives on the strength of its volunteers; OSSB salutes its volunteers.
- An Easy Way to Help Your Society. Want to support OSSB? Wear your name tag when you attend the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show (or any other show, for that matter). When you purchase a plant at the show, tell the vendor you are a member of OSSB (the *local* society) and thank them for coming to Santa Barbara, e.g., "As a member of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara, I'd like to thank you for coming to Santa Barbara." We want to leave the vendors with a good impression of OSSB.
- New! Judging the Show Table at Monthly Meetings! Many societies present ribbon awards to show table plants at monthly meetings, and the OSSB Board has received some requests to institute a similar system at our society. Therefore, beginning at the February meeting, the following informal judging procedures will apply.
- 1) Members who bring at least one plant to show will receive 1 point. Sign up on the list available at the show table; we're on the honor system, here, so only sign up if you brought at least one plant.
 - 2) To enter your plant for judging, put a numbered sticky tag in a visible spot on your plant or pot. Use one number per plant, please. These tags will be available on the show table.
 - 3) Voting is open to all members and visitors. Each person gets one vote. This is not AOS judging with rules about flower quality and shape; pick your favorite plant, write down its number, and put your vote in the basket!
 - 4) Voting ends prior to the discussion of the plant table. Votes will be tabulated and the plant with the most votes will receive 1st place and 5 points. The 2nd place plant receives 3 points; the 3rd place plant receives 2 points. Results will appear in the next newsletter. Owners of winning plants should make sure your newsletter editor knows the plant belongs to you; if you miss me at the meeting, call or email me, Heidi Kirkpatrick, at hkorchid@juno.com or 563-2894.
 - 5) At the end of the year, the results will be tabulated and the person with the most number of points will receive the grand prize for the year, and recognition in the newsletter. Good luck!
- Best Wishes to Our Members. Gene Baum had open heart surgery. Mike Hersh recently got out of the hospital. Best wishes on speedy recoveries!
- Sad News. Our sympathies to Bill Robson on the loss of his father.
- Orchid Growing Assistant Needed. A client of Randy Arnowitz is looking for 1-2 hours assistance a week managing an orchid collection. Call Randy Arnowitz at 967-6622 for information.

Spring Show News

- *Plants for the Society Display.* OSSB is looking for blooming plants from the membership for the society display at the spring show. Plants must arrive at Earl Warren by noon on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, if they are to be guaranteed a spot in the display. If you cannot deliver your plants, call Jeff Thompson (563-4376) or Heidi Kirkpatrick (563-2894) about arranging early delivery or plant pick up. Be sure to put your name on your pots.
- *Plants for the Society Sales Booth.* Members are encouraged to bring healthy, bugfree plants to sell at the society sales booth, managed by Treasurer Angela Watt (967-7565). OSSB receives 25% of the sales price of each plant. Sellers provide a numbered list of their plants. Each plant needs an orange sales tag with 3 pieces of information: the price, the seller's initials; the number of the plant from the seller's list. There will be more information at the February meeting on sales and when to bring your plants. Remember, blooming plants sell best.
- *Cymbidium Society of America Congress.* Lots of great speakers on Saturday, March 5, plus admission to the show. Speakers include taxonomist Eric Christenson, Roy Neale from New Zealand, Bill Goldner from Maryland. Contact Al and Sandy Svoboda at 969-4536 or asvoboda@earthlink.net.

Pay Your OSSB Dues!

OSSB Membership renewals are due in January each year! You may pay our new treasurer, Angela Watt, at the meeting, or send her a check for \$25, payable to OSSB. Do not send cash! Send your check to Angela Watt, OSSB Treasurer, 513 Barling Terrace, Goleta, CA 93117. To help us keep our records current, please include your name, address, telephone number(s), and email address.

- Check out our web site! www.west.net/~orchidsb
- OSSB Officers for 2005: President - Phil Watt Vice President - Don Brown
 Treasurer - Angela Watt Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick