



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2005

►► **NOTE THE LOCATION!** ◀◀

MacKenzie Adult Building

at MacKenzie Park

3111 State Street (at Las Positas)

enter parking lot on Las Positas

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Orchid collector and traveler **Lance Birk** will speak about
The Last Orchid Collector

Do you enjoy stories of finding orchids in the wild? Want to know more about habitat and orchids in nature? Come hear Lance Birk, whose beautifully illustrated and detailed **Paphiopedilum Growers Manual** has just been acquired by the OSSB library. Birk will talk about his experiences as an orchid collector, which is the topic of his upcoming book.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8-10, 2005 **San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale "Orchids, Ooooh-La-La!!!"**
Friday 4 pm - 9 pm. Saturday 9 am - 6 pm. Sunday 9 am - 4 pm. Admission \$6; under 12 free; free parking.
Scottish Rite Memorial Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego. (619)426-6831 or (619)997-1208

April 9-10, 2005 **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale "Rainbow of Orchids"**
Saturday: sales 10 am - 5 pm, show Noon - 5 pm. Sunday: show and sales 10 am - 5 pm. Admission \$5; seniors \$4; free parking. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3350 Civic Center Drive, at Torrance Blvd. And Madrona, Torrance. www.southbayorchidsocietyshow.com

April 20, 2005 **Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society Monthly Meeting**
7:30 pm. Carpinteria Public Library.

July 8-10, 2005 **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair -- Grand Anniversary!**
Friday and Saturday 9 am - 5 pm. Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Free admission; parking \$5. Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. www.orchidfair.com

Summary of the March 2005 Meeting

- **President Phil Watt** welcomed visitors, reminded members to pay dues, and thanked Dick Swain for providing refreshments.
- **New Refreshment Chair Needed.** Now that Angela Watt is our treasurer, a new refreshment chair is needed to coordinate our monthly refreshments. President Watt requested a volunteer from the membership to insure our monthly refreshments continue to be available.
- **Show News.** Angela Watt reported net sales of \$885 at the OSSB/SBOE booth in the spring show. A full report on the show appears later in the newsletter. For those looking ahead to the OSSB fall show, the theme will be "A Holiday of Orchids."

Program

Board member Jeff Thompson introduced our March speaker, Harry Phillips, the other half of Andy's Orchids, "Orchids on a Stick." Phillips spoke to us on a topic near and dear to his heart: Mounted Orchids, Fact and Fantasy.

Phillips contends that growers who understand mounted orchids can grow almost anything. In comparing potted versus mounted orchids, the difference in cultural requirements will revolve around water, and an understanding of water is imperative for successful mount culture. Phillips comments that the belief that most amateurs overwater is baloney; with mounted orchids in particular, it is almost impossible to overwater.

Water quality is very important for orchids, which do not like water with a high mineral content (parts per million or ppm) and particularly do not like salt. For areas with high ppm, Phillips highly recommends reverse osmosis or deionized water. However, note that extremely pure water will corrode metals quickly. Andy's Orchids uses an RO system that gets the water to 15 ppm; they bleed street water back in to get 80 ppm water as a buffer for fertilizer. When fertilizing, Phillips suggests ¼-½ strength every other week.

While most growers understand that water quality is important (even if they don't have RO or DI systems), Phillips also stresses water frequency and duration. He notes that one can water daily and still underwater if the plant receives only a brief blast that doesn't keep it wet. The entire mount of a mounted orchid should be dripping wet. Phillips prefers a 1000-hole watering head from Dramm for directing a gentle stream to a plant without wasteful splashing on the side. A 4 gallon/minute Foggit nozzle is also a

good choice.

Furthermore, following patterns in nature, Phillips waters in the evening if nighttime temperatures are over 55°F. Phillips recommends drenching plants before dinner, again after dinner, and then before going to bed. If one is fortunate enough to maintain high humidity in one's growing area, then the repeated wetting is not as necessary.

When mounting orchids, there are a number of media that are useful to orchid growers. Wet-loving orchids do well in baskets. Phillips finds that plastic baskets do not impede the downward progress of *Stanhopea* spikes like wood baskets do; when the *Stanhopea* is mature, he will remove the basket altogether and hang the root ball via a hooked wire.

Cork is a favorite for orchid mounts because it lasts well. Tree fern is popular with some growers, but can accumulate minerals; repeated wetting helps leach out minerals. Many epiphytes like hardwood branches (e.g., greasewood, madrone, manzanita); growers should avoid local eucalyptus and try to find branches that will not debark rapidly. Phals seem to like melaleuca; Phillips has attached the bark to PVC for very successful phal mounts. He notes that wood does not need to be sterilized, as it is not sterilized in orchids' natural habitats.

There are two types of medium for use at the base of mounted or basket plants. High grade sphagnum moss (New Zealand or Child) has long fibers and holds water well. However, bugs often eat the sphagnum of outdoor plants, so Phillips recommends green tree moss from Oregon outside, though it does not retain as much moisture. If moss dries out completely, it can be difficult to rewet and may require a dunking, which risks transfer of fungus and bacteria between plants.

To mount an orchid, Phillips prefers 12 pound fishing line. If he needs to cut plant tissues, he uses razorblades, one per plant. Since humans are the best virus vectors, he recommends a fresh pair of latex gloves per plant.

First, observe the direction a plant grows; most plants want to grow uphill starting near the bottom of the mount. A bed of moss goes onto the selected site, followed by the plant. Fishing line is wound around to keep the plant from wiggling; Phillips notes that care must be taken not to damage growth eyes. He twists the line three or four times, pulls it snug, then knots it several times. Finally, he attaches the tag. The plant is ready for a spritz of water and will need a bit more water for its first year on the mount. The roots it forms on the mount should live 6-8 years, whereas potted roots typically last only 1-2 years.

Report on the 2005 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

I would like to begin the show report by commending Al and Sandy Svoboda, members of our society who ran this year's Santa Barbara International Orchid Show and organized the Cymbidium Society of America Congress. Putting together either one of these events is a tremendous amount of work; Al and Sandy deserve recognition for doing beautifully at both events.

OSSB volunteers also came through on the society's display and sales booth; OSSB is very grateful to *Santa Barbara Orchid Estate* for splitting the booth fee with the society. Thanks go to *Phil and Angela Watt* and all the volunteers who made our sales booth so financially successful. Thanks to *Jeff Thompson* and *Donna Grubisic* for the design and construction of our Best Theme of Show display. Thanks to everyone who lent plants or who helped with the installation, including *Gene Haggerty*, *Carol Rogers*, *Shirlie and Ed Carter*, *Santos Ojeda*, *Elizabeth Ralston*, *Angela Watt*, *Don Brown*, *Randall Umland*, *Frank Methmann*, *Norm Wieder*, and *Jan Unowicz*. My apologies if my memory failed me and I missed anyone. Congratulations to all the trophy and ribbon winners; trophy winners who are members of our society are marked with a ►.

Best Orchid in Show:	<i>Lc. Fiery Treat</i> - Eric Holenda in Santa Maria Orchid Society display
Grand Champ Cym of Show:	<i>Cym. Helen Tanguay</i> - Casa de las Orquideas
Reserve Champ Cym of Show:	<i>Cym. Mae West 'Geysersland'</i> - Hatfield Orchids
Design of Distinction:	Zuma Canyon Orchids
Most Artistic Display in Show:	Andy's Orchids
Sweepstake Best Display in Show:	Ventura Farms
► Best Theme of Show:	Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
Best Table Display, Open:	The Orchid House
► Best Table Display, Amateur:	Phil and Angela Watt
Best Table Display, Society:	Coastal Valley Orchid Society
Best Display 100sq.ft. or more, open:	Zuma Canyon Orchids
Best Display 100 sq. ft. or more, amateur:	Ventura Farms
Best Display 100sq. ft. or more, society:	Malibu Orchid Society
Best Display under 100Sq.ft., open:	Taeon Orchids USA
Best Display under 100sq.ft., amateur:	Weegie Caughlan
Best Display under 100 sq. ft., society:	Pleurothallid Alliance, San Francisco Branch
Best Display any size:	Malibu Orchid Society
Best Educational Display:	Floralia Orquidarios Reunidos
Best Species Cym. Potted Plant:	<i>Cym. canaliculatum</i> 'Lickity Split' - Cal-Orchid
► Best Vanda Alliance Plant:	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i> 'Ryan Methmann' - Frank Methmann
► Best Odontoglossum:	<i>Oda. Karl Siegler</i> 'Norris Powell' - Orchids of Los Osos
► Best Other Oncidinae:	<i>Onc. hyphaematicum</i> 'African Bee' - Bill Robson
Best Lycaste Alliance:	<i>Lyc. (Chita x Shoalhaven)</i> 'Pulchritudinous' - Cal Orchid
► Best Misc. Genera:	<i>Masd. veithiana</i> 'Tres Piernas' - Joshua Davis
Best Other Orchid Specimen:	<i>Ansellia africana</i> 'John Hope Franklin' - Cal Orchid
► Trophy for Outstanding Service to the Show:	Sandra Svoboda

Our members received the following ribbons and awards in various classes:

- OSSB Display: 3 blues, 6 reds, 6 yellows, and 1 Honorable Mention
- Bill Robson's Display: 4 blues, 2 reds, 2 yellows, plus BM/CSA and HCC/AOS for *Cym Fatal Beauty*
- Dick Swain's Display: 1 blue and 1 yellow ribbon (the latter for the display)
- Al and Sandy Svoboda's Display: 1 blue, 2 reds and 1 yellow
- TJ Bloominger's Display: 2 blues
- Josh Davis and Bryan Davis's Display: 3 blues, 2 reds and 2 Honorable Mentions
- Orchids of Los Osos: 2 blues, 1 red and 1 Honorable Mention

Members Phil and Angela Watt, Julianne Lewis, Loretta Berlin and Josh Davis also participated in the various classes of the corsage competition, earning 4 reds, 4 yellows, and 2 Honorable Mentions

Five Cities Show Report: Thanks to Jeff Thompson, who installed the OSSB display at the 5 Cities Show. He reported the following show trophy winners: Bill Robson for best species; Don Brown for best dendrobium; Gene Haggerty for best oncidium alliance. Congratulations!

Thanks to Our Donors

Our Society benefitted from very generous donations during March. Cal Orchid donated the 6 orange epidendrums that made the flame for our 6 candles in our display. Thanks also go to Cal West Tropical, which augmented the delightful raffle table provided by Harry Phillips at our March meeting. Finally, the following vendors at the show donated plants or material to the society; please consider rewarding them with your business at future shows. A complete listing of donors and contact information will appear in the next newsletter.

Andy's Orchids (3 mounted species), Aurora Media (20 orchid calendars), Bangkok Botanical Garden (8 plants), Best of Thai Orchids (2 species), Blossoming Orchid Nursery (8 plants), C. Grows (2 cymbidiums), Carmela Orchids (huge box of orchids), Casa de las Orquideas (4 cymbidiums), Down Under Native Orchids (1 Sarcophilus), Ecuagenera (4 species), Evergreen (1 phal), Gibbel Nurseries (1 cym), Hatfields Orchids (1 cym), J & M Orchids (2 species), J. T. Tropical (large vanda), Kawamoto Orchid Nursery (2 boxes of orchids), Long N'Go Orchids (1 cym), Menifee Orchids (5 plants), Orchids of Los Osos (7 orchids), SLO Gardens (3 \$25 gift certificates), South Pacific Orchids (9 orchids), Taaan Orchids USA (1 cym), Tange Design (4 phals), Tayama Greenhouses (2 divisions), US Orchid Supplies (sphagnum moss, Nutricote), Valley Orchids (9 phals), Zuma Canyon Orchids(2 phals).

- The April Roster should be included with newsletters of paying members. If your address is incorrect, call or email Heidi Kirkpatrick (563-2894 or hkorchid@juno.com) to have a correction printed in the next newsletter.
- Congratulations to March show table winners: 1st-Josh Davis, 2nd-Frank Methmann, 3rd-Randall Umland. February show table winners were: 1st-Dick Swain, 2nd-Don Brown, 3rd-Bryan Davis.
- Check out our web site for Meryl Wieder's photos of the spring show! www.west.net/~orchidsb
- OSSB Officers for 2005: President - Phil Watt Vice President - Don Brown
 Treasurer - Angela Watt Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick