



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2005

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

Our own **Don Brown** and **Josh Davis** will speak about
Solving Problems for Outdoor Growers in Santa Barbara

Come hear how two of the society's very successful growers address some of the problems facing outdoor-growing orchids. Those of you who regularly attend meetings know that Josh Davis often brings in beautifully grown and flowered Masdevallias and Draculas. He will reveal his secrets for growing these cool- and moisture-loving orchids. Our Vice President, Don Brown, does not let a lack of greenhouse deter him from buying flasks of choice orchids. He will demonstrate how he de-flasks seedlings and keeps them alive until they can go outside. And don't forget to support the society by purchasing raffle tickets. This month's table will be provided by Don Brown, whose plants are always popular.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 14, 2005

Annual OSSB Picnic -- details in this newsletter!

October 12-16, 2005

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show and AOS Members Meeting.

If you have never been to an AOS Members Meeting, it can be a lot of fun. This special event will also include lectures sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance, The Pleurothallid Alliance, the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, and the Orchid Digest Corporation. The Show itself will have 19 vendors. Registrants can also sign up for a private wine tour Friday, October 14. For more information, visit www.sonomaorchids.com or call 707-528-1671.

October 14-16, 2005

San Diego International Orchid Fair.

San Diego Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA. Contact Cynthia Jones at chcom@cableone.net or 928-772-4710 for info.

Summary of the June 2005 Meeting

- **President Phil Watt** welcomed visitors and reminded the membership about the August 14th picnic potluck.
- **Fall Show.** Our Fall Show theme is "A Holiday of Orchids" and we need ideas for the society's display. Members should also consider installing their own exhibits.
- **Orchid Display at the Santa Barbara Public Library.** Many thanks to Art Denk, who, with a little help from your editor and secretary, installed a display on orchids at the main branch of the Santa Barbara Public Library. The display was up for the month of July and included orchid books, magazines, stamps, posters, and other orchid items, plus contact information for OSSB and the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society.
- **Refreshments.** Thanks to our refreshment providers, especially to Loretta Berlin, who took home the coffee equipment at the end of the July meeting. Don't forget to volunteer to take home the coffee supplies in the future.

Program

Vice President Don Brown introduced our speaker, long time species aficionado Howard Gunn, who spoke to us about the genus *Bulbophyllum*. Gunn has been growing orchids since 1965 and currently maintains a collection of some 1900 orchids in two greenhouses, including about 500 paphs and phrags and 365 bulbophyllums.

Gunn likes not only the weird and wonderful variety of blooms in the genus, but the fact that they do not attract bugs. He grows most of his bulbophyllums in sphagnum and keeps them damp. When mounting, he often puts sphagnum around a piece of four inch redwood fence board and wraps plastic netting around this to trap the sphagnum. The plant is then attached with fishing line. Since bulbophyllums have short roots, growths of specimen plants should not be allowed to climb atop each other or their roots will not be able to reach the growing medium.

Gunn showed a number of *Bulbophyllum* species, including the following.

- *B. blumei* - the five inch, mahogany colored flowers are reminiscent of a *Masdevallia*. Native to Java, Borneo, Papua New Guinea, Australia.
- *B. dayanum* - flowers have fuzzy edges and look rather like a snake with its mouth open. A slow grower, but blooms frequently. Thailand.
- *B. flavidaflorum* - One inch tall plants have mahogany flowers with white petals that are twisted together reminiscent of a *Masdevallia*. Java.
- *B. fletcherianum* - Big plants that like to stay wet. Gunn mounts the pots in a saucer of moss with

drainholes.

- *B. umbellatum* - Three inch flowers with red stripes and a lip the size of a quarter. From China, India and Thailand.
- *B. uniflorum* - Golden tan flowers with red stripes reach to 1 ¼ inches in diameter and appear singly on a four inch spike. From Sumatra, Borneo, Java.
- *B. moniloforme* - Growths look like tiny balls with tiny flowers in pale yellow with red. The ½ inch leaf appears for about a month, then falls off. Thailand.
- *B. globuliforme* - Bulbs smaller than the head of a pin and spikes thinner than ten pound monofilament. Native to specific pines in Australia, where they grow some 70 to 80 feet from the ground. Hard to grow.
- *B. arfakianum* - Contorted flowers with reddish mahogany markings. Translucent white patches allow light into the flower, which helps direct insects past the pollinia. Papua New Guinea.
- *B. frittilaflorum* - Five inch flowers of white with red markings last seven to ten days and appear several times a year. From Papua New Guinea.
- *B. falcatum* - one of several species with a long, flattened spike from which numerous tiny flowers protrude. This species has either a red or green "rachis" 10 to 15 inches long with yellow flowers arranged linearly on both sides of the rachis.
- *B. plumatum* - Four inch flowers with seven inch petals that dangle together. Viet Nam.
- *B. lemniscatoides* - Five inch spike with flowers clumped together at the end. If the plant is grown wet enough, the flowers will make white, dangling structures.
- *B. careyanum* - Flowers resemble a cluster of grapes. Many bulbophyllum blooms have an unpleasant smell, but Gunn reports that this species "really stinks" and chased the ants out of his greenhouse.
- *B. carunculatum* - yellow flowers with reddish petals and deep red lips appear sequentially.
- *B. econolabium* - Large red striped flower to seven or eight inches. Stinky. From Borneo and Sulawesi.
- *B. paluwensis* - Attractive flower to three inches. Red spots on the dorsal, red stripes elsewhere, and black tips.
- *B. facetum* - Attractive four inch white flowers with red stripes and red markings. Flowers close in the evening and open again the next day. Philippines.
- *B. laxiflorum* - Very floriferous. White showers of airy flower clumps.
- *B. graveolens* - Four to five inch yellow flowers with red lip and red overlay appear in clusters on the spike. Stinky!

Want the complete list of Gunn's marvelous bulbophyllums? Contact your editor, Heidi Kirkpatrick, 563-2894 or hkorchid@juno.com

OSSB Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 14, 2005
at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate
Dine at 3 pm
Tour of the Orchid Estate at 4 pm

Held in Conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society
Bring plants to donate for the Silent Auction
Bring your own drinks, plates, utensils, and picnic blanket

This year, we are trying something different with our annual summer picnic. In the past some members have expressed disinterest in paying for a catered tritip meal. This year, we will try a summer potluck. If your last name begins with

A-I: bring a *dessert*
J-Q: bring a *main course*
R-Z: bring a *salad or side dish*

The Santa Barbara Orchid Estate has generously offered their picnic area, plus a tour of their facility after our meal. Bring a blanket to sit on, or folding tables and chairs if you prefer not to sit on the ground. The silent auction will help us raise money for the society. Donors may specify whether funds raised go to OSSB or to the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society.

A Report on the 2004 Orchid Digest Speakers Day Comments on Fertilizer - Growing Orchids Part 3

To conclude my series on the 2004 Orchid Digest Speakers Day, I would like to report on assorted orchid advice I found either helpful or interesting (or both!). In particular, Alan Koch gave a lengthy discussion on his methods of fertilizing in his potting medium of sphagnum moss.

Koch is an advocate of foliar feeding, which he finds to be the most efficient way to provide micronutrients to orchids. While the roots of dicots, grasses and other plants have micro hairs, Koch says orchids only absorb nutrients through the root tips. He fertilizes the roots every month during the summer, but foliar feeds every other watering, spraying the underside of the leaves with a pressure sprayer.

Koch uses a product called CMS for foliar feeding, although seaweed extract works well, too. Both contain micronutrients such as calcium and magnesium.

Koch notes that most people who have problems reblooming mini cattleyas have iron

deficiencies. He adds iron to his foliar feed in the form of Ironite. Unlike the more common chelated iron, Ironite contains iron in the form of iron sulfide, which is small enough to fit through the stomata on the underside of orchid leaves.

When fertilizing the roots, Koch uses a urea-free balanced fertilizer. Urea fertilizer turns to ammonia, which the plant regards as toxic and moves to the leaf tips. Mini cattleyas do not need much fertilizer, but they do require iron, as their ancestors came from iron-rich native habitats.

Negrohirsute dedrobiums particularly benefit from foliar feeding. They make roots only once a year. But applying a rooting hormone via the foliar feed encourages them to root again.

To get the notoriously tricky Paph. Delrosi to bloom, Koch advises growing it with phals in the summer. In the winter, reduce root feeding, maintain foliar feeding, and hang the plant with the cattleyas in bright light.

Announcements

- **Update Your Roster.** The society welcomes back returning member Don Varner, 5216 Calle Cristobal, Santa Barbara, CA 93111, 964-4157, vardonshe@msn.com.
- **Refreshments at Monthly Meetings.** Thanks to Al and Sandy Svoboda for the July treats and to Joyce Wieder for brings the drink supplies. Thanks to Loretta Berlin for taking home the drink supplies at the end of the July meeting.
- **Coastal Valley Orchid Society Annual Plant Auction.** 16 August, 2005, 7 pm, Lompoc Public Library, Grossman Room.
- **Upcoming Newsletters.** Your editor attended the 2005 Orchid Digest Speakers Day and is eager to report on paphs and phrags. Good stuff! In addition, look for an informal survey of internet sites, including websites for some nearby societies. If you have a topic you are eager to read about in the newsletter, feel free to make a request!

- Congratulations to July's show table winner, Don Brown, whose outdoor growing *Encyclia* Standard Setter impressed the membership. A Disa belonging to Josh Davis received second place. Third place was a tie between *Blc. Waianae* Leopard 'Ching Hua' (Bryan Davis) and *Eulophia petersii* (Don Brown).
- *Monthly Show Table Results* - As of July, Josh Davis has the most points from the monthly show table, with three first place wins giving him a comfortable lead. Bryan Davis is in second place. Don Brown and Jeff Thompson are tied for third. Frank Methmann and Dick Swain and tied for fourth. Remember, bringing a plant earns 1 point. First place earns 5 points, second place earns 3 points, and third place earns 2 points.
- 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