



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 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

Annual Holiday Potluck

☐ *Potluck begins at 7:30 pm* ☐

Come enjoy a social evening held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society. This is your opportunity to eat, discuss our show, and bid in the silent auction. Bring a plant to donate to the silent auction; donors determine whether the proceeds go to the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara or the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society.

If you like to cook, this is your chance to shine. Or impress everyone with your shopping accumen and bring something delectable from the grocery store. Bring a dish to serve 6-10 people. What to bring? If your last name starts with

A - I: bring *dessert*

J - Q: bring *a main course dish*

R - Z: bring *a salad or side dish*

Don't forget to bring your own plates, silverware and drinks. Coffee will be provided. And bring your wallet so you can bid on the auction plants!

Dinner will be followed by our own **Meryl Wieder** with an audiovisual program of her artistic orchid photography. Come enjoy this delightful holiday treat.

Election Results: The membership attending the November meeting was pleased to welcome next year's officers: President Don Brown, Treasurer Angela Watt, and Secretary Heidi Kirkpatrick. There were no dissenting votes. Since the November meeting, the nominating committee is pleased to announce that Carole Thompson has volunteered for the position of Vice President.

Summary of the November 2005 Meeting

- **President Phil Watt** welcomed guests, including Al and Sandy Svoboda's guest, Mitchell Vance.
- **Annual Dues:** President Watt reminded the membership that it is time to pay annual dues for 2006. To meeting rising operating costs and speaker fees, the OSSB board reluctantly voted to increase dues to \$30 per household.
- **Fall Show Discussion:** See more about the fall show later in this newsletter.
- Thanks to all our drinks and refreshments volunteers in 2005. Please sign up to provide drinks or refreshments at a meeting in 2006. Those who provide refreshments are expected to bring food for snacking. Those who provide drinks pick up drink supplies (e.g., cups, coffee pot) at the end of a meeting and deliver them at the beginning of the next meeting. More details on these monthly volunteer opportunities will appear in your January newsletter.

Program

Vice President Down Brown introduced our November speaker, our own Phil Rietz, who is also founder and president of the Coastal Valley Orchid Society. Rietz spoke to us about his experiences building a legal and permitted greenhouse from materials commonly available at home improvement stores.

Rietz built his greenhouse himself over a period of 18 months. Many of his decisions were made by trial and error; he noted that one will lose orchids in the process, but the end result can be very gratifying.

The first step in building a greenhouse is designing it. Rietz presented the following list that must be considered:

Location	Style, size, plans
Foundation and floor	Materials
Power	Water needs
Humidity	Air movement
Heating	Cooling
Light	Shadecloth
Siding	

For many backyard growers, there is little choice about where to put a greenhouse. But it is important to note winter shade lines cast by houses and trees.

There are many options when considering the style of a greenhouse. Premade greenhouses are

available, as are greenhouse plans, or one can design one's own greenhouse. Size is governed by several factors, including how big the location is, how big one's pocketbook is, and what the local governing agency has to say about greenhouses. When designing a greenhouse, it is important to consider how power and water get to the greenhouse and what power and water requirements are needed; one does not want to blow circuit breakers every time the greenhouse fan kicks on. Additionally, design should include a consideration of drainage around the greenhouse.

For a foundation, Rietz chose cinderblock set into concrete, with rebar protruding. The sill plate, a 4 x 4, was then attached to the rebar with nuts and plates. For the floor, Rietz used 8-10 inches of gravel. Materials for the framing included treated wood, redwood, galvanized screws, side supports, and Simpson brackets.

Proper electrical lines are very important in a greenhouse. Those who are not comfortable with electrical work definitely should find an electrician. Rietz used flex and underground conduit, connectors, and outlet boxes with covers to keep electrical lines from getting wet. He also installed a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlet.

Water came from an existing hose bib. Rietz invested in an R/O system with a 150 gallon tank. He chose a 28 PSI pump with a 3/4 horsepower motor. Water is pumped up to the greenhouse through 1/4 tubing inside conduit buried 1 foot underground. For humidity and cooling, Rietz obtained a small swamp cooler. His fogger uses R/O water, but a misting system with regular water damps the gravel four times a day. (His 9 volt battery timer cost \$40 at Home Depot.)

Rietz chose polycarbonate siding, but has replaced the roof with opaque white (70% light) 5 mm twinwall. American Horticultural Supply provided his shadecloth; it is available with gromits and comes either woven or knitted. He installed the shadecloth 6 inches above the roof for ventilation. He also installed 400W sodium HID lamps for winter use when trees shade the greenhouse.

His first greenhouse used a 13 amp water heater to circulate hot water through copper pipes. The plants loved it but his pocketbook didn't. Currently, he heats with 3 electric heaters (\$17 at Home Depot), which are covered and turned off when he waters.

By doing much of the work himself and trading labor where he could, Rietz built his greenhouse for about \$4500.

A Holiday of Orchids
Annual Show of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2599 Puesta del Sol Road
Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 11, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Installation and Set-up: Friday, December 9, noon - 5 p.m.
Tear-down: Sunday, December 11, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Volunteer!** It is not too late to help with the show! We will need the following:
 - Ribbon Judges - you don't have to be an AOS trained judge to do this. You just have to decide, with your teammates, what looks best in each category. Ribbon judging will take place Saturday, starting around 10 a.m. AOS and CSA judging will take place at that time, so we will be careful to keep out of their way as we do our ribbon judging. Call or email Heidi (563-2894, hkorchid@juno.com) for more info.
 - Hospitality - we want to give visitors a good impression of our society ... and convince them to join! Hospitality volunteers will have sample newsletters to distribute, guest books for signing, plus all important membership forms! Hospitality volunteers will work for 2-3 hour shifts.
 - Sales - members may bring plants to sell (see below for details), but someone has to take the money when the plants are purchased! Volunteers will assist the cashier (much of the time, treasurer Angela Watt will be cashier), or act as cashier as needed. Shifts are 2-3 hours.
 - Installation/Set-up - Come Friday afternoon to help set up tables and install the society display.
 - Tear-down - This goes very quickly; volunteers help carry plants and display props to exhibitors' vehicles and help clean up after the show.

- **Show Plants:** If you plan to have your own display, please contact show manager Tom Ball or secretary Heidi Kirkpatrick (phone and email above). If you have a *Laelia anceps* in bloom, bring it for the display of *Laelia anceps* on the stage and for a chance at the Paul Gripp Trophy. If you have other blooming plants but do not intend to put in your own display, your society would love to put your plants in the society display.

- **Sales Plants:** Want to sell plants and support your society? The show is a great venue. You receive 75% of the selling price (25% goes to OSSB). To sell, you need orange tags (available Friday afternoon) and a numbered list of the plants you bring to sell. Each plant gets an orange tag with three pieces of information: the price of plant, the initials of the seller and the number of the plant on the seller's list. The orange tag is how OSSB keeps track of which plants sells - and how you receive your money. Plants should be bug-free and healthy. Blooming plants sell best. Plants with photos of the bloom sell well, too.

- **Vendors:** We will have three exciting vendors this year. Member nursery **Orchids of Los Osos**, a show regular and a favorite with the public, will again be at our show with a variety of orchids. Local nursery **Cal-Orchid** will sell at the show; I have heard rumors of those delightful epidendrums for which they are becoming known. And **Paphanatics** will be at the show for all those paph lovers out there (like me!).

- **Admission:** The show is free, but you must pay to enter the Museum of Natural History if you do not already have a membership. Museum admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and 13-17 year-olds, and \$5 for children 2-12. While you are at the Museum, check out my favorite collection, the botanical prints. They always have wonderful and interesting prints on display.

Announcements

- **Kudos to Carole Thompson** for volunteering for the position of Vice President. This will be Carole's first experience on an orchid society board, so we'll all help her "learn the ropes." Thanks, Carole!
- **Annual Dues.** Postage is going up. Insurance and speaker fees already have. As a result, the board regretfully decided to increase annual dues for 2006. Dues will be \$30 per household. If your address, telephone, or email has changed, your secretary *implores* you to include this information when you renew.
- **AOS Report.** Sandy Svoboda reported that hurricane Wilma wreaked substantial damage to the AOS garden in Florida.
- **Member News.** *Charitable orchid grower:* OSSB member Fred Lukas made a sizeable donation to Cottage Hospital. *New addition:* Members Bob Chamlee and Danielle Chaikin are enjoying 5 month old daughter Sequoia. *Operations:* Best of luck to George Brown in recovering from his operation. Best of luck to Loretta Berlin in recuperating from her knee replacement.
- **Looking Ahead:** The Spring Show theme will be "Orchids in Paradise." OSSB needs ideas for its display!

- **November Show Table Winners.** Jan Unawicz won first place with *Sl. Orpetii*. Second was a three way tie between Don Brown's *L. albida* cross, the Carter's *Slc. Hazel Boy 'Elizabeth'*, and Josh Davis' *C. perciviliana x Lc. Drumbeat*. Fourth was a four way tie between Bryan Davis' *Soph. Cernua*, the Carter's Molly Tyler, and Dick Swain's pair, *L. finckeniana 'Kennedy's'* AM.AOS and an unknown oncidium. Thanks also to Eugene Hagerty, Carole Thompson and Frank Methmann for bringing plants to the show table.
- **Show Table Winners Recognized in December.** Want to know who racked up the most points in this year's show table contests? The winner will be announced at the December meeting.
- 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