



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2006

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

Doug Conkin will speak about

Basic Cattleya Culture

Come learn more about cattleya culture from a lecturer who has produced a video on orchid growing and written for *The Orchid Digest*. Doug Conkin is an avid hobbyist who has been growing orchids since he was twelve and currently maintains a mixed collection of about 1000 orchids. He is on the editorial board of *The Orchid Digest*, President of The Southland Orchid Show Committee, and a probationary AOS judge. Conkin, who lectures throughout the Western US, is noted for clear, concise talks suitable for advanced enthusiasts but understandable by beginners.

Calendar

10-12 February, 2006

26th Annual Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale.

Orange County Fair and Expo Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. Fri: 11-7, Sat and Sun: 10-6. \$3 admission; \$5 weekend pass. Seminars, Sales, Displays. Free parking. www.ocorchidshow.com

13 February, 2006

Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society Monthly Meeting - note special date!

Carpinteria Public Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave. Jody Cutajar of Royale Orchids in Australia on cymbidiums

16-19 February, 2006

54th Pacific Orchid Exposition "Hot House Hotties and Their Cool Friends"

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Thurs preview: 6:30-10 - \$30 in advance. Fri: 10-6. Sat: 9-6. Sun: 10-5.

General admission: \$12, \$8 over 65. 415-665-2468 or www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

11-12 March, 2006

Five Cities Orchid Society Show and Sale "Orchid Safari"

800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande. Sat 9-5. Sun 10-5. Admission \$5. www.fcos.org

24-26 March, 2006

61st Santa Barbara International Orchid Show "Orchids in Paradise"

Earl Warren Showgrounds. Preview Thurs 6-9 call 682-7633x243 for tickets. Fri - Sun 9-5. General admission \$10. Seniors (65+) and students \$8. Under 12 free. www.sborchidshow.com

25 March, 2006

Cymbidium Congress (lectures, meals, admission to International Show)

University Club of Santa Barbara, 1332 Santa Barbara Street. CSA members \$115, Non-members \$140.

Info: Al and Sandy Svoboda 805-969-4536 asvoboda@earthlink.net

Summary of the January 2006 Meeting

- **President Don Brown** welcomed guests and visitors.
- **Spring Show Corsages:** member Betty Watt told the membership that Nancy Rowe (968-2691) is in charge of the corsage and cut-flower arrangement division of the spring show and welcomes entries. In addition, the show needs hosts and hostesses (people to check for tickets at the door); people who volunteer as hosts or hostesses get free admission to the show.
- **Thanks to the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate** and Alice Gripp for again helping the society with the sales booth fee at the spring show.
- Thanks to Eric Wise for refreshments.

Program

President Don Brown introduced our January speaker, world renown orchid expert and editor in chief of *The Orchid Digest*, Harold Koopowitz. Koopowitz, an emeritus professor of biology at UC Irvine and director of the UC Arboretum for some 20 years, spoke to us about Miniature Paphiopedilums.

Ten years ago, Koopowitz was asked to speculate about the next trend in paphiopedilum breeding. He looked at the trends in cattleyas and saw that mini-catts were big. And he thought that perhaps future popularity would not lie with the bench-eating multiflorals, but with petite plants that bloom in a rose (1 ½ inch pot).

In the past, the occasional dwarf appeared in other breeding programs. Some of these were recognized for their charm and given nicknames such as "pygmy paphs" or "teacup slippers" or even "poppets". Most of these were spontaneous dwarfs, such as the 1918 *Paph. Garibaldi* 'John'. This clone sometimes bred small plants.

Koopowitz, however, sees more promise in starting from scratch with small species. Among the small to mini species are:

- *Paph. braemii* and *Paph. fowlie* - Koopowitz considers these species too ugly.
- *Paph. wilhelminiae* - used by some East Coast breeders to reduce size in multiflorals.
- *Paph. concolor*, *Paph. niveum*, and *Paph. X greyii* - charming members of section *Brachypetalum*. Koopowitz considers these potentially good mini parents.
- *Paph. barbigerum* - charming insigne alliance species. Small clones can produce four flowers in a rose pot.
- *Paph. charlesworthii* - small species from Myanmar with proportionally large dorsal. White staminode passes to progeny. Alba clones exist. Small clones good for mini breeding.

- *Paph. fairrieianum* - another variable species with alba clones. Charming, but curved, ruffled petals not appreciated by judges.

- *Paph. henryanum* - variable in size. Pink pouch can be quite long, which does transfer to progeny. Spots on dorsal and pink pouch are dominant.

- *Paph. spiceranum* - from the Himalayas. White curved dorsal is recessive in its progeny.

- *Paph. helenae* - petite species with yellow flower. Legal seedlings are becoming available. Variety *delicatum* is smaller and not as yellow.

- *Paph. coccineum* - small with red color. Not yet available in US.

- *Paph. hermannii* - variable color. Not available in US.

- *Paph. tranlienianum* - dwarf plant but long pouch, form not flat and round. Not available in US.

- *Paph. vegvarutanii* - soft, clean pink on dorsal. Not available in US.

Among the primary minis, *Paph. (barbigerum x charlesworthii)* made the charming *Paph. Tyke*. The very cute *Paph. Doll's Kobald* is a cross of *Paph. charlesworthii* and *Paph. henryanum*. Both of these have been used as parents of more complex hybrids such as *Paph. Tiny Charlie* and *Paph. Little by Little*. Other minis using the species *Paph. henryanum* and *Paph. charlesworthii* include *Paph. Little Henry* and *Paph. Little Stevie*.

For the future, Koopowitz aims for flat, round, small flowers on plants with small leaves. He would like to introduce more color into his breeding lines. Until *Paph. coccineum* is available in this country, Koopowitz plans to use vinicolors to introduce strong reds. Roundness can be bred from the brachy paphs, but using brachys often leads to sterility in breeding lines. Progeny of *Paph. X greyii alba*, however, seem to avoid this problem. For whites or greens, Koopowitz looks to *Paph. Skip Bartlett* 'White Pepper' (*Paph. godefroye x Paph. F. C. Puddle*) or to an albino *Paph. charlesworthii*. Since other breeders are becoming interested in mini paphs, expect to see more of these little charmers in the future.

Show Table Report

James Merriman's *Rossioglossom grande* won him first place on the January show table. Second was the outdoor growing *Lc. Purple Cascade* 'Ice Princess' of Bryan Davis. Third was a three way tie between the Carter's *Lc. Caulminant* 'La Tuilerie' x *Lc. Mem Grant* Eichler 'Lenette' and Don Brown's two: *L. anceps* (Guerrero x 'Helen' HCC/AOS) and *Paph.* (White Queen 'Los Angeles' x Irish Eyes 'Erin'). Thanks to everyone who brought plants: Donna Grubisic, Laurel Clayton, Norm Wieder, Jeff Thompson.

Volunteer? No, Not Me!

By Heidi Kirkpatrick

When I bought my first orchid plant, I had no idea there were orchid clubs that met regularly in almost all parts of the country. To figure out how not to kill my orchid, I trotted on down to the local garden center. Well, it was a plant, wasn't it? They even had a few orchids in their houseplant section. That meant they were experts, didn't it?

Fortunately, someone in the garden center took pity on me and told me about the local orchid society. So I went to a meeting. Gorgeous slides. Semi-incomprehensible words. I *knew* I would never learn enough to participate in the society as a volunteer.

Then I responded to an impassioned plea to help with show installation. Someone I didn't know handed me a bunch of moss and told me to put it around the pots in the display. I had so much fun that I showed up the next year. And then someone very persuasive sweet-talked me into taking over for the retiring secretary.

Was I an orchid expert? No! I'm still not an orchid expert, though years of taking notes and writing about them mean I understand much of the language.

I have learned one very powerful lesson: A society succeeds or fails depending on the strength of its volunteer involvement.

There are many ways to volunteer, some requiring almost no effort, some with extended responsibilities. Here then, are my top ten ways to get involved and volunteer for your society.

- 1) Vote for your favorite plant on the show table. Don't know anything about orchid judging? Good. You'll approach the effort looking for what looks pretty. If you can recognize different orchid genera (e.g., a cattleya versus a cymbidium versus a paphiopedilum), you are ready for ribbon judging at the fall show.
- 2) Bring refreshments one month. Bake it yourself or purchase snacks at the store. Especially important is the drinks volunteer, who takes home drink supplies one month and brings them

the next.

- 3) Attend your society's orchid show. Didn't attend the OSSB show last December? Shame on you. It was a beautiful show and the vendors had tantalizing plants to buy. Plus, the Museum of Natural History is a delightful place to visit.
- 4) Lend plants for the society exhibits at shows.
- 5) Bring plants to sell at monthly auctions or at member sales at the spring or fall shows. The society keeps 25% of the sale price. Blooming plants or plants with photos of the blooms tend to do particularly well.
- 6) Volunteer to put show flyers up around town in the fall. Do you shop at La Sumida? Ask to put a society show flyer on their bulletin board. Live near State Street? See which businesses will display a show flyer.
- 7) Help with installation and tear-down of society displays. Installation is a hectic event and those of us present may seem grumpy, but we sure are glad to see another person to sort plants or critique plant placement or help with any of the myriad things that need doing.
- 8) Volunteer to staff a show. The society always needs hospitality and sales volunteers for 2-3 hour shifts at the spring and fall shows. Hospitality means encouraging visitors to sign the guest book or (better yet) sign up as new members. Sales volunteers help sell member plants in the sales booth.
- 9) Join the society's Board of Directors or volunteer as a Committee Chair. Know something about publicity? The society will love you. And don't wait for the nominating committee to ask you to perform the perfect task. When Paul Gripp asked me if I wanted to be Vice President for 1999, I said no, but I'd love to be Secretary.
- 10) Return the following survey with your membership dues and application.
Show your support for your society! Attend meetings. Attend shows. Volunteer!

A) The 2006 Fall Show needs a theme. Think up your own, or vote for one suggested by the board. "Orchids of the Wild West." "The Holiday Orchid Bowl." "Orchid Spectators." "Take Me Out to the Orchid Game."

B) Is there a topic you would like to see addressed by a monthly speaker? In a newsletter article or editorial?

C) If you did not attend the 2005 OSSB Orchid Show in December, why not?
