



# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

*Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2006*

*We are returning to*

## **Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center**

**1232 De La Vina** (at De La Vina and Victoria)

**Meeting begins at 7:30 pm**

### **PROGRAM**

Our Own **Bryce Augustine** of Monsoon Flora Orchid Lab speak about  
**Orchid Info That Gets You Hot!**

Come learn about how orchids respond to their environment. What are the environmental limits of the orchids you grow? Our own Bryce Augustine will tell us. Augustine is a real Santa Barbara local. He graduated from UCSB with a BA in botany and currently is the owner of Monsoon Flora Orchid Lab, which he has run since 1991. He breeds paphs and phrags for sale in flasks and is an accredited AOS judge.

### **Calendar**

*May 6-7, 2006*

#### **Carmel Orchid Society, Inc. Mayfaire Orchid Show and Sale**

Crossroads, Highway 1 and Rio Road, Carmel, CA. Free admission. 20 vendors.

*June 3-4, 2006*

#### **2006 Express Orchid Exhibition**

Holiday Inn Express Hotel, 1350 N. Fourth St., San Jose, 9 am - 5 pm, free admission. Wine tasting, 5 orchid vendors, orchid academy lectures, info: 800-731-9995. Heidi at [hkorchid@juno.com](mailto:hkorchid@juno.com) can forward email info.

*July 7-9, 2006*

#### **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair**

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4. Free admission, \$5 parking. [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)

*July 12, 2006*

#### **OSSB Monthly Meeting**

Brian Gerhard of Down Under Native Orchids will speak about easy-growing Aussie Dendrobiums

## Summary of the April 2006 Meeting

Editor's note: Since I was absent from the April meeting, I would like to thank Don Brown and Jeff Thompson for their comments on the meeting. Jeff sent me particularly comprehensive notes of the lecture.

### Program

Our own Michael Glikbarg spoke to the society about Specimen Plants and how to grow them. After graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Glikbarg bought his nursery, Orchids of Los Osos, over 20 years ago. He has been growing orchids since the 1960s.

In a discussion of specimen plants, it is first useful to identify characteristics that make a plant a "specimen." Most of us know that a specimen is a big, healthy and robust plant for its type. But orchid judges look for very specific qualities when looking to award cultural awards. The following are among the necessary characteristics that make up a specimen plant.

- The plant should have lots of flowers all around the circumference of the plant.
- Flowers should bloom all at once. In other words, the first flowers that open should still be open and in good condition when the last flowers open. Plants with flowers that open over a long period where the first flowers fade before the last open do not make good specimens.
- Foliage is clean throughout the plant. This means that there are no blemished or missing leaves, no sign of insect damage. In addition, backbulbs should retain their leaves.

Not every species or hybrid is destined to make good specimen plants. Some species or hybrids just do not lend themselves to good specimens, either because of growth habit or bloom habit. And some plants don't have flowers worthy of the effort growing a specimen requires. Glikbarg discussed what to look for in seedlings when thinking of growing a specimen.

- Potential specimen plants should develop more than one new growth per existing lead pseudobulb. An example showing this characteristic is *Encyclia radiata*. Glikbarg displayed a plant of this species in a three inch pot, with the lead pseudobulb producing two new leads.
- The length of the rhizome (distance between

pseudobulbs or growths) should be short so that a specimen plant can fit into a relatively compact pot.

- The species or hybrid should naturally produce lots of spikes with lots of flowers. When the plant is grown into a specimen, these should radiate out in all directions around the pot and should be well displayed. This is what produces the "wow" factor that makes a specimen plant impressive.

Potential specimens can sometimes be identified out of flask. Glikbarg noted it is worth watching any plantlets that are big enough right out of flask to go into two inch pots and that were developing multiple growths while in flask. A final decision should be made after seeing the plant's first bloom and judging whether it is of sufficient quality and showiness to justify growing the plant into a specimen.

Glikbarg recommended that specimens receive good general culture much like their smaller peers. When repotting all orchids, he tries to remove all the old medium possible (especially for paphs) and trims out unhealthy roots. At this point, specimens are not divided. If their roots are unhealthy, they go into the same size or a smaller sized pot. Plants with roots in good condition can be potted up a size; but keep in mind that orchids do not like being overpotted.

Specimens especially benefit from good air movements and fertilizing techniques. Glikbarg supplements with seaweed extract monthly while plants are growing. Air movement 24 hours a day helps reduce disease and insect populations.

Glikbarg discussed some species and hybrids that tend to make better specimens due to their natural growth habits. Among these:

- Maudiae type paphiopedilums
- *Paph. sukhakulii*
- Multifloral type paphiopedilums
- *Sophrrolaeliacattleya* (*Slc.*) hybrids
- *Lc.* Mini Purple
- Dendrobiums, including *Den. anosmum*
- *Enc. radiata*
- *Miltoniopsis*
- *Maxillaria tenuifolia* - must grow very bright to flower well; from Mexico and Belize.

## **Report on the 2006 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Part 2**

OSSB was the grateful recipient of a number of donations at the spring show in March. Please support these vendors at future shows to help show our gratitude for their generosity!

Andy's Orchids  
734 Orcean View Avenue  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
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speciesnut@AndysOrchids.com  
www.AndysOrchids.com  
open by appointment only

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Temecula, CA 92592  
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Lompoc, CA 93436  
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Down Under Native Orchids  
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orchid@kawamotoorchids.com  
www.kawamotoorchids.com

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Montclair, CA 91763  
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Mon -Sat , 9 - 5  
www.orchids.com/events.html

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juanartiaga2004@netzero.com

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate  
1250 Orchid Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
805-967-1284  
www.sborchid.com  
open Mon-Sat 8-4:30, Sun 11-4

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www.valleyorchids.com  
Open Tue-Sun 9 - 5

## Announcements

- *Corrections.* It is with abject apologies that I note a few errors in the 2006 roster.  
Don Brown's email address is deb1934@cox.net  
Randall Umland's email address is randumland@cox.net
- *Award from the Spring Show.* The society has received a \$125 prize for placing in its category at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Good work everyone who helped make our display a success.
- *Orchid Magazine Back Issues.* Kenneth Bruyninckx of Akerne Orchids in Belgium is looking for back issues of various magazines, including some issues from the early years of the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, assorted issues of *Orchid Digest*, and some more recent issues of *Lindelyana* and *Awards Quarterly*. For a list of volumes he needs, check out [www.orchidguide.com](http://www.orchidguide.com)

## April Show Table Results

This is a partial report of the April Show Table Results. A list of those who entered plants will appear in a future newsletter. The first place winner in April was a cattleya belonging to Bryce Augustine, our May speaker. Second place went to Dick Swain's cymbidium. Jeff Thompson earned third place with his *Ansellia africana*. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who brought in plants!

- Check out the society web site! [www.west.net/~orchidsb](http://www.west.net/~orchidsb)
- OSSB Officers for 2006:

President - Don Brown	Vice President - Carole Thompson
Treasurer - Angela Watt	Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick