



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center

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

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Joe Grienuer of Baron's Orchids will speak about
Interesting Orchid Facts from the 19th Century to Today

Fascinated by all the wild and wonderful details that make the orchid world so colorful? Come hear Joe Grienuer of Baron's Orchids, Inc., in Morro Bay tell us about some of the delightful facts about orchids. Grienuer's lifelong interest in horticulture led him to California and to a passion for orchids. This is his first visit as an OSSB speaker and he promises a "spectacular" plant table, featuring a selection from among the 35 international and 12 US growers with which Baron's is associated.

Calendar

September 16, 2006 **Coastal Valley Orchid Society Expo**

Lompoc Public Library, 10 am - 4 pm. Observe AOS judging at 1 pm.
www.coastalvalleyorchidsociety.com

September 23-24, 2006 **South Bay Orchid Society 50th Anniversary Fall Show and Sale**

South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula. Admission \$7, seniors \$6. www.southbayorchidsociety.com

October 7-8, 2006 **San Francisco Orchid Society OrchidFest 2006**

Hall of Flowers, County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave and Lincoln Way. Info:
415-665-2468 or www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

October 13-15, 2006 **12th Annual San Diego International Orchid Fair**

Held at and Sponsored by Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr. in Encinitas. Info:
(760)436-3036 x 206 or www.qbgardens.org or www.orchidfairsandiego.com

October 21-23, 2006 **Southland Orchid Show at the Huntington**

1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA. www.orchidshow.org

Summary of the August 2006 Meeting

- **President Don Brown** welcomed guests and reminded everyone about the upcoming OSSB and SBCS annual picnic.
- **Thanks to Angela Watt** for rushing out to purchase refreshments at the last moment.

Program

(Editor's note: The following is from Don Brown's notes on his talk, with interjections by Jeff Thompson.)

Carole Thompson introduced our own Don Brown, who spoke about his orchid tour to Australia and New Zealand last fall (spring down there). It was led by Paul Chim, a former President of the San Francisco Orchid Society and an orchid judge. Paul has previously led orchid tours to China. Also in the group was Anna Chai, reputed to be the best hobbyist grower on the West Coast-as determined by the number of cultural awards she received.

Brown reported that he learned a lot about orchids by traveling with this group, especially about orchid culture from Anna Chai. As a child in Korea, Chai was tutored by a professional botanist. Though she did not enjoy the lessons, the knowledge was useful when she became interested in orchids. Chai notes that one of the keys to good orchid culture is, "Treat you orchids like children and love them."

In Melbourne, Australia, the group attended a general orchid show, the high point of which, for Brown, was the collection of hybrid dendrobiums exhibited by Henk van den Berg. Brown reported that Henk surely has one of the best collections in Australia-or for that matter the world. Many of the orchids were first-bloom seedlings of outstanding colors and form.

There were also two very impressive specimens of *Den. teretifolium*, among the many other exhibits. One was two to three feet from top to bottom; consensus from the membership had the plant's age at about 25 years.

In Adelaide, Australia, they attended the National Cymbidium Show, which is wholly devoted to that genus and has strong emphasis on standards with very impressive size, fullness, and color. While in Adelaide, they visited Valley Orchids, which specializes in cut flower cymbidiums. It had recently moved to a new

location where its shadehouse seemed to stretch almost over the horizon. Temperatures in this region are much like those in Santa Barbara, but winters are drier and summers somewhat wetter.

Between shows the group visited the Cape York Peninsula in the tropical north of Australia, where they saw orchids in the wild. One tree, for example, was festooned on one side with *Den. teretifolium*. Roads were muddy, so their habitat tour was by boat.

New Zealand is the site of a large orchid show that held every three years. Brown reported that it seemed much like the San Francisco Orchid Show, primarily in the range of orchids presented. It was, however, smaller than that show, both in terms of exhibitors and vendors.

One of Brown's favorites at the show was a *Cym. Eastern Venus* (*Cym. goeringii* x *Cym. Sleeping Beauty*). This breeding could be an important step toward getting cymbidiums with the charm of *Cym. goeringii* that are able to grow outdoors here in southern California.

The high point in everyone's opinion was a very large specimen of *Dockrillia fairfaxii* 'Kevin', which received an FCC at the show. This species was formerly called *Den. teretifolium* var. *fairfaxii*. It was about 5 feet from top to bottom and had 1½ to 2 inch flowers. Other plants of interest included a seven inch tall *masdevallia*, a brilliantly yellow *disa*, and various *dendrobium* hybrids and species.

Just before departing Australia for the US, the group visited Kevin Hipkin's nursery (Royale Orchids), home to an outstanding new seedling: *Cym. Champagne*. The nursery also displayed a great many other cymbidiums that gladdened the hearts of those who had special interest in cymbidiums.

For those considering visiting Australia, Brown recommended hiring a local driver rather than risking some white-knuckled interpretations of local rules of the road.

Interestingly, Brown noted that no one in Australia or New Zealand was using Diatomite in any way.

(Editor's note: Report on the August picnic will appear in the October newsletter.)

OSSB Sponsors New Trophy for Fall Show

The Board of Directors of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara announces the establishment of the

Dr. Albert and Sandra Svoboda Trophy
For Best Theme Display

This is a perpetual trophy to be presented to the display best representing the theme of the annual Fall Show of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara.

This trophy is in recognition of the exceptional contributions the Svobodas have made not only to our local orchid society, but to the general orchid community as well. A partial list of their accomplishments includes the following: American Orchid Society trustee (both Al and Sandy); member and co-chair AOS Conservation Committee (Al); member and chair AOS publications Committee (Sandy); OSSB representative to the AOS (Al); OSSB past president (Al and Sandy); Cymbidium Society of America past president (Al and

Sandy in consecutive terms); CSA Congress chairs (Al and Sandy), Santa Barbara International Orchid Show President (Al); Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Assistant Manager (Sandy); AOS and CSA judges (Al and Sandy); representatives of the AOS and CSA to the Tokyo Dome Show. In addition to the official ways the Svobodas have supported the orchid world, they have also provided encouragement and support to many other orchid growers.

The Board felt that a trophy for the Best Theme Display was especially appropriate, given the lovely and imaginative displays the Svobodas have so frequently installed at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show in the spring and our own OSSB Fall Show. I would like to add on a personal note that the Svobodas have encouraged me to become more involved in the orchid world via my writing. Thanks (I think!) for supporting me so strongly. And thank you, Al and Sandy, on behalf of the Society for being part of our orchid community.

OSSB and SBCS Co-sponsor Trophy for Spring Show

The Orchid Society of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society announce the establishment of a perpetual trophy to be presented annually at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. The trophy will read as follows:

The Dr. Albert C. Svoboda, Jr. Trophy
Best Standard Complex Hybrid Paphiopedilum

Donated by the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara and the
Santa Barbara Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America

In appreciation of long and dedicated service to our societies and to
the national and international orchid world.

The Board of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show has already approved a trophy to be presented in honor of Al. As many of you may know, Al is very ill. We hope this trophy shows how much our local societies appreciate his contributions to the world of orchids.

Announcements

- Consider Email Newsletters. Many of our members receive the newsletter via email. This saves the society the cost of postage and printing. Currently, the newsletters are sent as an attachment in MS Word, although I would try another format if more members preferred it. If you are interested in a trial email newsletter, please contact me at hkorchid@juno.com
- OSSB Fall Show. For those of you who like to plan ahead, the annual OSSB Orchid Show and Sale will be at the Museum of Natural History on December 9 and 10, 2006.
- 500 mL Erlenmeyer Flasks for Sale. Juliane Lewis, formerly of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, has about 50 like new flasks for sale at \$2 each; at least 20 have rubber stoppers. She is living in Thousand Oaks now but could bring them to a meeting. Contact her at julianelewis@gmail.com
- 19th World Orchid Conference. The next WOC will be January 23-27, 2008 in Miami, Florida. For more information: www.19woc.com

Show Table Results

Ed and Shirly Carter earned first place at the August Show Table. Second and third place went to Gene Baum. Thanks to everyone who brought in plants: Randall Umland, Jeff Thompson, Elizabeth Ralston, James Merriman, Eugene Hagerty, Laurel and Chris Clayton. Remember to vote for your favorite plant! The exhibitor with the most points at the end of the year wins a prize. Reviewing: winners receive 5 points, 2nd place earns 3 points and 3rd place 2 points. Everyone who brings a plant earns 1 point.

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

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