



## *Orchid Society of Santa Barbara*

*Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2006*

### **Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center**

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

**Meeting begins at 7:30 pm**

#### **PROGRAM**

**Norito Hasegawa** of Paphanatics will speak about

#### ***Phalaenopsis* Species and Their Influence on Hybrids**

We are fortunate to once again have the internationally recognized Norito Hasegawa as our October speaker. Hasegawa usually speaks to us about his first love, paphiopedilums, but this month we will hear instead about the genus *Phalaenopsis*. Hasegawa is a CSA and AOS judge and travels all over the world to speak about orchids. No matter what the topic, hearing him speak is a treat not to be missed. And don't forget your raffle money, as Hasegawa will be providing the October plant table.

#### **Calendar**

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

Hall of Flowers, County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and Lincoln Way. Info:  
415-665-2468 or [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

*October 13-15, 2006*      **12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.qbgardens.org) or [www.orchidfairsandiego.com](http://www.orchidfairsandiego.com)

*October 20-22, 2006*      **Southland Orchid Show at the Huntington**

1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA. Hours: 10:30 am - 5 pm. Info: (909)626-8244 or  
[www.orchidshow.org](http://www.orchidshow.org) (Editor's note: The dates in the OSSB September newsletter were incorrect.)

*November 11-12, 2006*      **Orchid Society of California Show**

Garden Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellview Ave., Oakland, CA. Info: (510)828-6605 or  
[slippergal@msn.com](mailto:slippergal@msn.com)

*December 9-10, 2006*      **Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Show**

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Mark your calendars! Prepare your plants! Gear up to volunteer!!

## Summary of the September 2006 Meeting

- **President Don Brown** welcomed guests and reminded everyone about the upcoming AOS Judging event in Lompoc, hosted by the Coastal Valley Orchid Society.
- The society expressed best wishes to **Gene Baum**; it was announced at the meeting that Gene was in the hospital.
- President Don Brown asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. Many thanks to **James Merriman** for volunteering!

### Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our September speaker, Joe Grienuer from Baron's Orchids. Grienuer gave a very entertaining lecture on interesting orchid facts.

He began his talk with a personal assertion about orchids that might fit any of us: "I got the bug. It bit me hard." His fascination with orchids led him to Baron's Orchids, which specializes in seeing to flower shops and nurseries.

There are a lot of orchids out there to fascinate an enthusiast. Grienuer quoted statistics of over 25,000 orchid species, plus an additional 150,000 man-made hybrids since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. That is indeed a lot of different orchids.

What is the secret to the success of the orchid family? And they definitely are successful, comprising perhaps 10% of the world's flowering plants.

Orchids do well because of mutation. They are highly adaptable, which makes them able to find ways to survive in their environment. As an example, Grienuer displayed several seedlings from the same cross. In many plant species, the seedlings look very much the same. Often, orchids siblings can display a broad range of characteristics. One of Grienuer's yellow phals was a standard yellow phal; the other was peloric (showing lip structure on the petals).

Most orchids are epiphytes and most cultivated orchids are from the tropics. But there are others that grow on rock or on the ground. One theory is that orchids that once inhabited trees may have dropped to the ground and eventually adapted to terrestrial living.

A few species took this adaptation to an extreme. In Australia, there is a genus of orchids, *Rhizanthella*, that grow and bloom entirely underground. They have no chlorophyll and survive on fungus. One theory suggests that as the last ice age receded and the climate got hotter and drier, the plants retreated to their roots to conserve moisture.

Of course, orchid pollination strategies display quite well how they have adapted to their environment. Some orchid species use pseudo-antagonism to get pollinated. The yellow and brown of odonts and oncidids makes some insects think their territory is being invaded, so they "butt heads" with the intruder. Other orchids use pseudo-copulation; the orchid looks like a member of the opposite sex, which attracts an insect.

Other methods for getting pollinated involve fragrance, which many orchid have. Some orchids provide shelter, such as serapias, which provide hiding spots for insects. Others use the lure of food, usually a false lure. Some paphs, for example, have hairy spots that may mimic flies. They also may have a slight scent of excrement or death in the pouch. The hairs on the pouch contain a neurotoxin that interferes with an insect's ability to fly, so it crawls up and out ... past the pollen.

Orchid pollen itself is notable. While most plants have fine, dustlike pollen, orchid pollen comes in big clumps. It is, therefore, not allergenic like the small-grained pollen from plants such as grasses. However, Grienuer asserted that this large pollen comes at a price, as orchid plants need to be bigger to be strong enough to bloom. Also, while many other plants produce large seeds, orchid seed is tiny and dustlike.

In addition, Grienuer discussed some of the plant experiments being done at such places as Stanford University. For example, researchers have been able to inject young plants with particular viruses that manipulate specific genes (e.g., for color or fragrance). A second virus is then injected that kills the first but does not harm the plant. Of course, virus in home collections is bad, and Grienuer reminded everyone to isolate suspect plants.

## Announcements

● **Sad News** Longtime OSSB member Dr. Albert C. Svoboda, Jr., passed away Thursday, September 14, 2006. Al and his wife Sandy have been staunch supporters of OSSB and of orchids in general. Al will be missed. The Society offers its condolences to Sandy Svoboda.

● **Report on Coastal Valley Orchid Society Expo** This was a novel event featuring AOS judging open to the public as an educational function. Your editor was unable to attend, but heard very positive remarks about Coastal Valley's efforts. Six AOS awards were presented, including several to OSSB members. Congratulations!

- *Laelia pumila* var. *coerulea* 'Sanbar Blue Pacific' received an AM of 80 points - Santa Barbara Orchid Estate/Paul Gripp
- *Paphiopedilum* Susan Booth 'Monsoon Mist' received an HCC of 79 points - Bryce Augustine
- *Phalaenopsis venosa* 'Kaitlyn' received an HCC of 76 points - Jim Sloniker
- *Gastrorchis humboldtii* (*Phaius humboldtii*) 'Rosminah' received an HCC of 76 points - Don Brown
- *Vanda* Pimchai Beauty 'Lianna' received an HCC of 76 points - Phil Rietz
- *Oncidium varicosum* 'Sanbar Pure Gold' received a Judges' Commendation - SBOE

● **Help AOS Earn Money**

This holiday season you can help the American Orchid Society receive a percentage of your purchases by using your computer for your shopping!

The AOS recently has formed a partnership with Amazon and OrchidBooks, two large retailers. With this new move, the AOS is out of the hands-on mail-order business completely. When you order from the AOS, your order will be filled by Amazon or OrchidBooks, with the AOS receiving a small percentage of the sales. When you go online to order books from the AOS at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org), clicking on the shop and then the bookstore will link you Amazon or OrchidBooks. Or you can type in directly: [www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx](http://www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx)

Note that the AOS does not receive any money if you go directly online to Amazon or OrchidBooks. You must reach these sites through the AOS site for the AOS to get money. There is no difference in price to you and the AOS website is a secure website.

The bonus here is that shoppers who go to Amazon through the AOS for *anything at all* help the AOS earn a percentage of the sales. Want to buy your spouse a neat power tool from Amazon's tool section? Go to the AOS website, click on the shop and bookstore to get to Amazon, and then shop as normal. It is a small extra step for the consumer, but each time you do this, the AOS receives a percentage of the sales.

A few items will be sold directly through the AOS: Back issues of *Orchids/AOS Bulletin*, *Lindleyana* and *Awards Quarterly*; and the new e-AOS Awards CD (see link off the AOS homepage). The AOS will also continue to offer wholesale specials to affiliated societies and retailers through our Orchid Emporium. Call Kelli Resetar, Director of AOS Retail Operations, at 561-404-2061 or email her at [kresetar@aos.org](mailto:kresetar@aos.org) to get a copy of the latest wholesale price list.

● **New Orchid Adventures Book**

Many of you may recall the well-received lecture by Lance Birk some months ago. This author of the noted *The Paphiopedilum Grower's Manual* has a new book out about his sometimes harrowing adventures in orchid hunting. The book is called *The Last Orchid Hunter* and is available for \$60 from his website at [www.lancebirk.com](http://www.lancebirk.com)

● **August Picnic Report**

In September, I promised you a picnic report on the October newsletter. Unfortunately, I have misplaced my notes (including some very delightful quotes from Alice Gripp), so this is abbreviated and from memory.

The August Picnic was a potluck that was well received by those in attendance. Alice Gripp gave a tour of SBOE, pointing out some of her favorite plants. My favorite moment came when she likened the seed pods of the

prolifically flowering *Nagelliela purpurea* to toy G.I. Joe hand grenades. Thanks to everyone who donated auction plants and to those who bid on them. Many thanks to the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for having our picnic on their facility, giving a delightful tour afterward (thanks, Alice!) and donating SBOE t-shirts to attendees.

● **OSSB Fall Show and Sale**

*Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
December 9-10, 2006  
Details in upcoming newsletters.*

The Society's Fall Show is in about two months. It is time to think of grooming your plants. It is time to think of volunteering to help with the show. The Society especially needs volunteers now to help with publicity for the show!! Last year's show received excellent reviews, including a generous write-up in the *CSA Journal*, but was poorly attended. Remember that the amount of money the society can raise through events such as our show determines the breadth and stature of speakers we can afford at meetings. Support your society!

**Show Table Results**

Thanks to Paul Gripp and Bryce Augustine for their entertaining review of the September show table. First place went to Ed and Shirly Carter's lovely *Coelogyne massengeana*. James Merriman earned second with his intriguing *Notylia xyphophorus*. Third place was a tie between Jeff Thompson's showy *Cycnoches* and Ed and Shirly Carter's phalaenopsis style *Dendrobium*. Thanks to everyone who brought plants, including Laurel Clayton, Bill Robson, Randall Umland, and Don Brown. After the November show table, results will be tallied and the point winner(s) will be announced at the December meeting.

- 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