



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2006

**Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
1232 De La Vina (at De La Vina and Victoria)**

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

**Bruce Kidd will speak about
Pest Management in Orchids**

Do your orchids have tiny critters clambering their leaves? Do you find mysterious holes in your flower buds? Do emerging root tips seem to disappear overnight? Your plants may have pests. This month, Bruce Kidd will tell you how to handle those pests. In his life outside orchids, Kidd works for Dow Agrosiences in Murrietta, California, so he knows about bugs and how to prevent your collection from becoming their buffet!

Calendar

***November 4-5, 2006* Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House**

\$7.50 specials, *Laelia anceps* parade, cymbidiums in spike, silent auction. Everyone loves the SBOE Open House! Saturday 8am - 5pm, Sunday 9am-5pm. (805)967-1284 or www.sborchid.com

***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

***December 2-3, 2006* Sunset Valley Orchids Open House and Casa de las Orquideas Open House**

Sunset Valley Orchids will be open 8:30am to 5pm and advertises big discounts on plants and supplies, including catts, paphs, aussie dendrobiums, sarcos, cynoches, etc. 1255 Navel Place, Vista. (760)639-6255 or www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com. Casa de las Orquideas will be open 10am to 4pm and will have 5 or more 3" cymbidium seedlings at \$7 each, 10 or more at \$6. They will be joined by Andy's Orchids, Islander Delights and the Rowland Collection. 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075. Parking is limited; carpooling is advised. (858)755-7572 or casaorquideas.com

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

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. More information later in this newsletter.

Summary of the October 2006 Meeting

- **President Don Brown** welcomed guests, including Len and Cathleen Grabowski.
- **James Merriman** gave the report of the nominating committee. Presented to the membership for next year's officers were:
President - Don Brown
Vice President - Carole Thompson
Treasurer - Angela Watt
Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick
This slate of officers and any nominations from the floor will be voted upon by the membership at the November meeting. Note that while this year's officers are all returning for another year of service, the board will be looking for apprentices to learn the tasks such as Treasurer for future service to the society.
- President Don Brown asked for volunteers for the Fall Show. In particular, the society is in desperate need of publicity help. If you have connections, this is the time to call your president and volunteer! If you have time to help distribute flyers, this is the time to call your president and volunteer!
- Many thanks to those who have brought refreshments this year, and apologies from your editor for not getting everyone's names to publish. For October, food was brought by the Claytons and drinks by the Augustines. Thanks to Janet Gripp for volunteering for November.

Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our October speaker, a favorite with the society, Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics. While Hasegawa is internationally recognized for his knowledge of paphs and paph breeding, at the October meeting, he discussed something a little different for the membership: Phalaenopsis Species and Their Influence on Hybrids.

Hasegawa is a long time AOS and CSA judge. A requirement of AOS judging is a broad knowledge of the world of orchids. In fact, judges should be able to talk for an hour on any topic, from *Ada* to *Zootrophion*. He noted with a laugh that, "As (AOS) judges, we're supposed to know *everything*."

Early in the history of modern orchid growing, phals were considered members of the cymbidium genus and then of epidendrums. Having settled into

their own genus, they have, like most orchid, suffered some tinkering by taxonomists. Hasegawa used primarily Eric Christiansen's recent monograph as his guideline for the genus.

In genus *Phalaenopsis* section *Phalaenopsis*, several species have had huge impacts upon phal breeding. This section is characterized by long lips with side lobes, threadlike growths at the tips of the lip, and kidney shaped petals that differ in shape from the sepals. These are the stereotypical phals, with long arching stems and flowers presented in two rows on either side of the stem. Notable among these species are *P. amabilis*, *P. aphrodite* and *P. formosanum*. These have been line bred and interbred to make 5-6 inch whites seen now at shows. The pink *P. sanderiana* has the same shape, but makes a grainy rather than a clear pink in its hybrids.

Another group commonly used in hybridizing has mottled leaves with purple undersides. Their smaller flowers are often used to breed miniatures. *P. stuartiana* has been much used for its spotting, which is dominant when bred with the large whites. These are the "French Spots" that show very spotted lips and spotting on the rest of the flower with a white edge around petals and sepals. Note that the flat, silvery roots of *P. stuartiana* will sometimes sprout a new plant when cut. *P. schilleriana* gives hybrids of pink with a white lip. *P. philippinensis* shows pink flushing on white. The side lobes of the lip are a bright yellow.

P. celebensis has small flowers with a foxtail arrangement on the spike. Flowers are often peloric, though the peloric trait seems to be recessive in its hybrids. *P. lindenii* also has smaller (1 - 1.5") flowers with segments that are similar in shape. The foxtail arrangement of the flowers on the spike can be showy, but often the earliest to open are fading already when the last on the spike bloom. This species is off white with light to dark stripes, sometimes with dots. It and *P. equestris* both have good branching of the spikes. The latter species ranges from pink flushing to solid fuchsia. There are albino and peloric forms, though the pelorics often do not form regular pollen and are sterile. *P. equestris* has been extensively used to breed charming miniatures, such as *P. Cassandra* (x *stuartiana*) or *P. Be Tris*. *P. equestris* often conveys its red lip to its hybrids and strongly red-lipped forms have been selected and line bred.

Hasegawa paused for a story about Herb Hager, honoree of the AOS trophy for Best Phalaenopsis. Hager, who was renown for his involvement with phals, did geneological analysis of the semi-alba hybrids - white with red lips. He found that *P.*

equestris was responsible for the red lip in these hybrids. He also discovered that most stripes come from this species.

Members of the *P. amboinensis* group may reflower on stems that are still green - don't cut their stems. The star shaped segments of the flower are the same size. Hybrids are yellow with spots. Some pure yellows have been bred with this species, but not the size of the 5-6" whites. The problem with this breeding is that 4n (tetraploid) hybrids have been used with 2n (diploid) species, so the progeny are often sterile. Breeding the yellows onto big pinks results in "art shades" - pretty to many but muddy to others. These also are often sterile. Unfortunately, the *P. amboinensis* influence often leads to fading in the art shades as the flower matures. Hybrids with *P. venosa* in their backgrounds often have its white center at the base of the column. They also fade less than *P. amboinensis* hybrids. The species can be orange to chocolate colored to green to tan-yellow.

P. lueddemanniana is another species swarm with related forms that some taxonomists call species and others varieties. *P. lueddemanniana* is star shaped with bars. The related *P. hieroglyphica* has been elevated to its own species, as has the very red *P. pulchra*. Unfortunately, past breeding with these three all fell under the *P. lueddemanniana* label, which made for confusing results! *P. pulchra* by *P. violacea* has great dark color. *P. pulchra* crossed with a big 4n white results in spots rather than solid pigment. The related *P. fasciata* is yellow-green and

probably is the true parent of the breakthrough yellow *P. Golden Sands 'Canary'*, though *P. lueddemanniana* is the registered parent.

P. violacea has a starry form with purple color to the tip. It has an alba and a coerulea form, but most remarkable is its fragrance. The related *P. bellina* has green at the edges and distinctively bowed lateral sepals. These are best grown tilted or mounted to avoid crown rot; in nature they grow on the sides of branches rather than the tops. Fragrance in phal hybrids often comes from these species, such as *P. Sweet Memory*.

Hasegawa notes that *Doritis pulcherima* is considered a terrestrial phal by Christensen, but is still a separate species to the RHS plant registrar. Phals with the species designation *Dtps.* claim this species in the background - even some of the large whites. However, many of these are probably the result of what Hasegawa called "mutation by tags" - mislabeled plants.

Among other species more recently used in hybrids are *P. corningiana* with its grape Koolaid fragrance, *P. mariae* with its white droopy flowers and the triangular-shaped flowers of *P. javanica*. Some species are perhaps more interesting than their potential hybrids, such as the pendant *P. gigantea* with its 2.5-3 foot leaves. Hasegawa noted that this species is best mounted as report shock can kill the plant. it crawls up and out ... past the pollen. Most phals grow warm, but *P. wilsonii* is a relatively cool growing semi-deciduous miniature.

OSSB Fall Show "Orchids: A Gift of Nature"

Saturday and Sunday, December 9-10, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Our Society's Fall Show is just around the corner and there are some important things you can do to help it be a success. Remember that the money we raise through plant sales is part of what helps us support a year of educational monthly speakers.

● **Bring Show Plants.** A show is not a show without plants! OSSB will have a display, installed by Jeff Thompson and any volunteers who can help. Installation will be Friday afternoon. Several of our members will have their own tabletop displays. If you will have a number of plants in bloom, consider a tabletop display, either on your own or shared with another orchid grower!

● **Bring Sales Plants.** OSSB will have a sales booth. You set the price for your plants. OSSB gets 25% of the sales price. If it is not in bloom, a picture of the flower will help your plant sell. Angela Watt will have orange tags for your sales plants. You make a list of your plants and their prices. You put on the orange tag your initials, the cost of the plant, and the number of the plant on your list. The orange tag is the society's record of the sale (so you get your 75%).

● **VOLUNTEER!** Here are some of the volunteer opportunities available.

Publicity

Set-up on Friday

Tear-down on Sunday

Installing the OSSB display

Sales shifts

Food Platters for Saturday Judge's Luncheon

Hospitality/New member signup

Put up flyers at stores, nurseries, libraries, etc.

Ribbon judging Saturday

Show Photography Saturday

● **Attend the Show!** This is your society's show! Show your support! Bring your friends!

Announcements

- **Welcome new members!** Last few months, the society has welcomed several new members. We are pleased to have as members of our society: Laura Dewey, 15 W. Carrillo St., #104, SB, CA 93101; Alla McKeon, 2451 Borton Dr., SB, CA 93109; Ted and Susan Solomon, 4537 Auhay Dr., SB, CA 93110. Add them to your roster! My apologies for being slow to report on our new members and for those I have missed.
- **Donate to the Special Speakers Fund.** One way OSSB can afford the wonderful speakers we enjoy is by the use of the Special Speakers Fund. This fund consists of donations specifically earmarked for supporting speakers, particularly those with some distance to travel or those whose speaker fees would otherwise make us unable to engage them. Consider making a donation to the Special Speakers Fund to help our Vice President Carole Thompson continue her terrific run of instructional, entertaining speakers during 2007.

Show Table Results

Thanks to Paul Gripp and Bryce Augustine for their educational review of the October show table. First place was a tie of James Merriman's *Milt*. Honolulu 'Warren's Best' and Jeff Thompson's *Masd. erinacea*. Second place went to three winners: *Neofinetia falcata* (Josh Davis), *Dendrochilum cobbianum* (James Merriman), and *Onc.* Mem. Kiyoshi Akosuka 'Volcano Queen'. Thanks to everyone who brought plants, including Phil and Angela Watt, Bryce Augustine, Frank Methmann, Chris and Laurel Clayton, Lana Rose, Elizabeth Ralston and Eugene Hagerty.

- 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