



Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2006

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

Annual Holiday Potluck

►► *Potluck begins at 7:30 pm* ◄◄

Come enjoy a social evening held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society. This is your opportunity to eat, discuss our show, and bid in the silent auction. Bring a plant to donate to the silent auction; donors determine whether the proceeds go to the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara or the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society. There will also be a few select plants purchased by the society from H&R on the silent auction table. This is a fundraiser, so remember to bid generously and support your society.

If you like to cook, this is your chance to shine. Or, impress everyone with your shopping accumen and bring something delectable from the grocery store. Bring a dish to serve 6-10 people. What to bring? If your last name starts with

A - I: bring a *main course dish*

J - Q: bring a *salad or side dish*

R - Z: bring *dessert*

Don't forget to bring your own plates, silverware and drinks. Coffee will be provided.

Dinner will be followed by our own **Meryl Wieder** with an updated audiovisual program of her artistic orchid photography. Come enjoy this delightful holiday treat.

Election Results: The membership attending the November meeting was pleased to welcome back the returning officers for the society: President Don Brown, Vice President Carole Thompson, Treasurer Angela Watt, and Secretary Heidi Kirkpatrick. There were no dissenting votes.

Summary of the November 2006 Meeting

- **President Don Brown** welcomed guests, including Janet Hunter.
- Shirlie Carter moved to accept the slate of nominees for 2007 officers. Eric wise seconded the nomination, which was passed by the membership. The 2007 officers will be the returning 2006 officers: President - Don Brown; Vice President - Carole Thompson; Treasurer - Angela Watt; Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick. Note that 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. Thanks to **James Merriman** and **P. J. Sanderson** for volunteering to undertake publicity. Thanks to **Eric Wise** for tentatively volunteering to take any award photos. Thanks to **Carrie Chu (Brown)** for taking care of the judges luncheon. Your editor hopes that those of you who took flyers to distribute have put them in strategic places.

Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our November speaker, Bruce Kidd. Kidd is a specialist in plant protection. He spoke to us about pest management in orchids. Knowing that he works for a large producer of agricultural pesticides, most members might have expected Kidd to begin with the joys of chemical use. Instead, Kidd started his talk by noting that a pesticide is a “fire extinguisher”. His talk was aimed at how to avoid the need for pesticides in the first place. He noted that orchids are a particular challenge for pest management because of the “promiscuous exchange of plant material.”

Pest problems can lead to physical damage to the plant, fewer flowers, shorter flower life, increased maintenance costs, and loss of the plant. Insects are particularly attracted to flowers by scent, color and pattern; to an insect, a flower is an easy-to-digest source of high nutrition.

In nature, plants exist in a community with insects. Orchids may exist with lichens and bug damage, but in many regions they are also cleaned by a daily wash of rain. In rainy seasons, this can be as much as three hours of hard rain – a very effective pest control.

In cultivation, Kidd observes that, “It’s all about sanitation.” Clean facilities have fewer pests and crowded plants provide land bridges for pests.

Kidd’s “miracle cures” all begin with cultivation. Buoyant air movement blows fungal

spore from leaves and makes it more difficult for bugs to land. Clean water forcefully applied washes off bugs and spores. Kidd noted that watering orchid properly takes time. Water draining through the medium of after a good drenching creates beneficial new air holes in the mix.

When fighting disease, one should remember the disease triangle. To flourish a disease needs the following three: susceptible hosts (orchids), disease pathogens and a favorable environment. Only the last of these is entirely controllable by the grower. For example, damping off in a seedling tray means there is free water plus fungus spores plus the proper temperature. To avert this, the grower can dry out the tray or raise the temperature. Kidd observes that sphagnum moss contains beneficial microbes that suppress diseases. Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids uses a 3% solution of hydrogen peroxide to combat fungus on wounded leaves and crowns.

For pests, Kidd recommends pesticides only as a last resort, although orchids are quite tolerant of chemicals. The first line of defense is good culture, with beneficial insects like lacewings and ladybugs to pick off minor infestations. There are plenty of household chemicals not labeled as pesticides that do very well at killing insects, though any chemical will kill the beneficial insects along with the nasty ones. Many growers use dilutions of Formula 409 or rubbing alcohol or dish soap. For use on leaves only, Kidd will use Pokon Leafshine, which cleans off alkali residue and sooty mold and kills insects like scales and mealybug. For growers who have “given up on culture” there is Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer, which kills pests on orchids but leaves behind an “ecological desert”.

A good way to determine if a collection has snails or slugs is to set out citrus peels and bok choy leaves. The pests will collect underneath them. Researchers in Hawaii have found that caffeine is a potent insecticide, but at high doses. Twenty No-Doze in a gallon of water gets rid of snails. Commercially, Kidd notes that Sluggo is quite effective against snails and slugs. The active ingredient is iron phosphate, which is not fatally tempting to dogs like metaldehyde baits.

Weeds act as pest vectors, so keeping one’s collection weed-free is important. For oxalis entrenched in pots, touch up with a cotton ball soaked in Round Up.

For those who use pesticides, follow the label, spray to glisten rather than drown, give them time to work, and don’t increase the dosage. A two gallon backpack sprayer is convenient.

Orchids: A Gift of Nature
Annual Show of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2599 Puesta del Sol Road

Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 10, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Installation and Set-up: Friday, December 8, noon - 5 p.m.

Tear-down: Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Volunteer!** It is not too late to help with the show! We will need the following:
 - Ribbon Judges* - you don't have to be an AOS trained judge to do this. You just have to decide, with your teammates, what looks best in each category. Ribbon judging will take place Saturday, starting around 10 a.m. AOS and CSA judging will take place at that time, so we will be careful to keep out of their way as we do our ribbon judging. Call or email Heidi (563-2894, orchidtrain@cox.net) for more info.
 - Hospitality* - we want to give visitors a good impression of our society ... and convince them to join! Hospitality volunteers will have sample newsletters to distribute, guest books for signing, plus all important membership forms! Hospitality volunteers will work for 2-3 hour shifts.
 - Sales* - members may bring plants to sell (see below for details), but someone has to take the money when the plants are purchased! Volunteers will assist the cashier (much of the time, treasurer Angela Watt will be cashier), or act as cashier as needed. Shifts are 2-3 hours.
 - Installation/Set-up* - Come Friday afternoon to help set up tables and install the society display.
 - Tear-down* - This goes very quickly; volunteers help carry plants and display props to exhibitors' vehicles and help clean up after the show.

- **Show Plants:** If you plan to have your own display, please contact show manager Tom Ball or secretary Heidi Kirkpatrick (phone and email above). If you have a *Laelia anceps* in bloom, bring it for the display of *Laelia anceps* on the stage and for a chance at the Paul Gripp Trophy. If you have other blooming plants but do not intend to put in your own display, your society would love to put your plants in the society display.

- **Sales Plants:** Want to sell plants and support your society? The show is a great venue. You receive 75% of the selling price (25% goes to OSSB). To sell, you need orange tags (available Friday afternoon) and a numbered list of the plants you bring to sell. Each plant gets an orange tag with three pieces of information: the price of plant, the initials of the seller and the number of the plant on the seller's list. The orange tag is how OSSB keeps track of which plants sells - and how you receive your money. Plants should be bug-free and healthy. Blooming plants sell best. Plants with photos of the bloom sell well, too. This year, other societies that install displays at our show may also sell plants at the OSSB booth. The same 75/25 arrangement applies.

- **Vendors:** We will have three exciting vendors this year. Member nursery **Orchids of Los Osos (Michael Glikbarg)**, a show regular and a favorite with the public, will again be at our show with a variety of orchids. Cymbidium specialist **George Hatfield of Hatfield Orchids** will sell at the show for the first time this year. And another first time vendor to our show will be **Sonora Winward of Michel's Orchids**.

- **Admission:** The show is free, but you must pay to enter the Museum of Natural History if you do not already have a membership. Museum admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and 13-17 year-olds, and \$5 for children 2-12. While you are at the Museum, check out my favorite collection, the botanical prints. They always have wonderful and interesting prints on display. This is your show; please support your society by coming to the show!

Announcements

- **December 30, 2006 Meet the Breeders.** An orchid educational event and plant sale featuring Terry Root of The Orchid Zone, Frank Smith of Krull-Smith Orchids, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids and Loren Batchman of Casa de las Orquideas. 10 am – 4 pm, The Womans Club, 3320 Monroe St., Calsbad, CA. \$7 per person. For info or reservations, contact sdcymysoc@yahoo.com or Bruce Kidd at 951-600-1393.
- **February 9-11, 2007 Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale.** Orange County Fair and Expo Center in Costa Mesa. 10 am – 6 pm. Orchid lectures, exhibits, vendors. Admission \$4. Free parking. More info: www.ocorchidshow.com or 949-293-3095.
- **Thanks to the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate** for donating a plant for publicity for our fall show! PJ Sanderson says it made quite a stir with the recipient; let's hope that translates to show attendees!
- **Carpool Help.** Eugene Hagerty will be without a car for a while and is looking for a ride to orchid society events. He lives near Fairview and Cathedral Oaks in Goleta. Call Gene at 967-8510.

Show Table Results

Thanks to Paul Gripp for his educational review of the November show table. First place went to Dick Swain's *Lc. Scarlet Imp* x *L. anceps*. Jeff Thompson took both second and third place with *Blc. California Girl* 'Orchid Library' x *C. Horace* 'Maxima' and *Masd. roseala*. Thanks also to James Merriman, Ed and Shirlie Carter and Don Brown for bringing plants. And with the most points, the winner of this year's show table is ... well, you will just have to go to the December meeting to find out!

- 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