

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2007

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

Potting Demo: 7:15 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

## Christina and Eric Hollenda will speak about Orchids of Ecuador

This is a very romantic Valentine's Day meeting, since Eric and Christina first met on an orchid hunting trip in Ecuador in 1996. Eric was in search of orchids in Ecuador from the perspective of a grower, while Christina photographed and studied orchids in their natural habitats. The rest, say Christina and Eric, is history.

Currently, Eric is president of the Santa Maria Orchid Society and vice president and chairman of the Five Cities Orchid Society. Eric has grown orchids for many years and received Best Orchid in Show at the 2005 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Christina is the treasurer for the Five Cities Orchid Society and has photographed wild orchids in many parts of the Americas.

**Potting Demonstration:** Jeff Thompson begins a series on potting orchids. This month, he will discuss the use of fir bark.

OSSB Officers for 2007:

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

Visit the OSSB Web Site!

[www.orchidsb.net](http://www.orchidsb.net)

## Calendar of Events

### February 9-11

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fascination of Orchids Show

Orange County Fair & Exposition Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. 10 AM to 6 PM. Admission \$4. Free parking. More Info: 949-293-3095 or [www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com)

### February 15-18

#### San Francisco Orchid Society's 2007 Pacific Orchid Exposition

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Preview Thursday 6:30 PM - 10 PM. Show and Sale Friday - Sunday. 415-665-2468 or [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

### March 3-4

#### South Bay Orchid Society Spring Show

Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3350 Civic Center Dr., Torrance. Contact Marla Corey 310-833-1918 or [marlacorey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marlacorey@sbcglobal.net)

### March 16-18

#### Santa Barbara International Orchid Show "Orchids Gone Wild"

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Hwy 101 and Las Positas Rd. [www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com) or 805-969-5746.

**Note:** OSSB will install a display Wednesday, March 14. This is the same day as our regular meeting. All plants must be at the Showgrounds by noon so the installers can finish by 5PM.

### March 23-25

#### San Diego County Orchid Society Show "Orchids: Varied Treasures"

Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego

### March 31-April 1

#### Five Cities Orchid Society Show and Sale "Orchid Treasures"

South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande. Admission \$5. [www.fcos.org/show\\_info.html](http://www.fcos.org/show_info.html)



*Schoenorchis seidenfadenii* *Coelogyne moorea*  
*Coelogyne lawrenceana* *Trichotosia dalatenis*  
*Eria pusilla* (white flower smaller than 1 cm)  
*Oberonia acaulis* (very small complicated flower)  
*Monomeria barbata*

A number of terrestrials can be found in high elevation silicate forests, including the very primitive *Apostasia odorata*, considered by some not to belong to the orchid family. *Neuwiedia balansae* has juicy, edible berries with black seeds. A large group of terrestrials consists of the jewel orchids with their decorative leaves, such as *Anoectochilus annamensis*. There are also more chlorophyll-less saprophytic orchids like the miniature *Odontochilus saprophytica*.

Montane highland forests on silicate soils often contain a very high elevation subset of habitats at 2500-3000 m. These are tops of mountains where temperatures are cold and snow sometimes falls. Humidity is very high as the mountain tops are often covered by clouds. Thick moss can be found on trees and the ground, and lichens and sphagnum mosses thrive.

Vegetation consists of scrub and shrub, such as 1-3 m tall ericaceous bushes, including 25-35 species of rhododendrons. Many of these are showy with spring flowers ranging from 1 cm to 30 cm in colors of white, green and deep purple. This region is also home to a few *Pinus* species, and some orchids, such as *Bulbo. piniculum*, grow only on these pines.

Not many orchids are found in these colder areas, but those that are tend to be quite interesting. A partial list includes:

*Dendrobium wilsonii* *Goodyera schlechtendliana*  
*Platanthera epiphytica* *Bulbo. ngoclinensis*  
*Bulbo. reptans* *Bulbo. atrosanguineum*  
*Cym. insigne* *Dendrobium christyanum*  
*Bulbo. wardii* (bright purple petal tips)

Also in these regions are species of *Pleione* which grow in sphagnum moss on steep to vertical cliffs. These are very difficult to collect. Examples include *Pleione grandiflora* and the rare *Pleione vietnamensis*.

North and central Vietnam also contain regions of lowland submontane forest on rocky limestone. These consist of isolated steep, low elevation mountains with cliffs. The valley floors flood around these mountains in the rainy season. Underground seeps help keep water-loving creatures alive during the dry season. South slopes are characterized by broadleaf, semi-deciduous trees that allow considerable light to the forest floor during the winter. *Phal. wilsonii* responds by dropping its own leaves in the bright season and photosynthesizing through its long roots. At 1000 m, the rocky limestone is home to coniferous forests, many species of which are unique to Vietnam.

These limestone regions are rich in orchids, such as the bright red *Renanthera coccinea* with its bright red flowers; it grows low or high elevation and is easy in cultivation. *Thunia alba* bears a 15 cm white flower and will cover high mountain cliffs with thousands of white flowers. *Vietorchis aurea* has big yellow flowers but no chlorophyll. Dendrobiums include the bright yellow *Den. chrysanthum*, which will cover rocks, the fuchsia flowered, rare endemic *Den. vietnamense*, and *Den. gaeaxiense*, which is found on vertical cliffs. The bamboo orchid, *Corymborkis sp.*, will reach 5 m while *Nervelia macroglossa* disappears underground in the dry season. Easy in cultivation are *Eria boneana* and *Eria wunaria*. Among the many lithophytes are *Phal. manii* with its brown-barred flowers, the fringed lipped *Cheirostylis cochinchianensis*, *Oberonia ensiformis* and *Oberonia cavaleriei*. Notable is one species

of *Bulbophyllum*, *Bulbo. ambrosia*, which is both easy in cultivation and has a pleasant fragrance. Other species include the following, many of which require limestone to thrive in cultivation:

*Bulbo. longibrachiatum* *Bulbo. macraei*  
*Bulbo. apodum* (no pseudobulb)  
*Bulbo. delitescen* *Bulbo. guttataloides*  
*Phal. lobbii* (epiphytic) *Phal. gibbosa*  
*Renanthera citrina* *Holcoglossum wangii*  
*Aerides crassifolia* *Gastrochilus bellinis* (2cm flower)  
*Renanthera vietnamensis* *Aerides rosea*  
*Epigeneium laberaria* *Gastrochilus minatiflores*  
*Ludisia discolor* *Hemipilia sp.*  
*Calanthe triplicata* *Calanthe argento-striata*  
*Liparis petraea* *Bletilla achracea*

Vietnam also contains several relatively dry areas. These are characterized by semi-deciduous dipterocarp woods and by coastal savannahs that are home to cycads. During the hot, dry season, many trees will drop leaves and streams will dry out. This is the area of sandstone and granite, with spiny scrub, thin ferrallite soil, rainy season lakes, and fires in the dry season. A number of terrestrials survive the dry season underground and flower during the rainy season, such as *Eulophia andamanensis*, *Eulo. macrobulbon*, *Eulo. graminea*, and *Eulo. spectabilis*. The terrestrial *Pecteleris susannae* has white with colored lip 15 cm flowers on a 1-1.5 m plant. Other orchids have no leaves or leaves for only a brief part of the year, such as *Vanilla aphyllaei*, *Bulbo. kanburiense*, *Calanthe cardioglossa*, and *Calanthe succulanea*. A number of the xerophytic (drought tolerant) inhabitants of these regions have succulent leaves, including *Den. crumenatum*, *Den. cumulatum*, the rare *Den. suzukii*, *Ascozentrum garayi* with its orange flowers, *Bulbo. clandenstinum*, *Vanilla annamensa*, and *Triasdisciflorum nummularia*. A number of *Habenaria* species inhabit these areas and all require a summer rest in cultivation, including the white flowered *H. dentata* and *H. rostillifira*, *H. rhodocheda* with its red flowers, and *H. medifolia* with a fringed lip. Other terrestrials include *Peristylus gracilis* and the green flowered, wildly shaped *Peristylus goodyearoides*.

On the future of the Vietnamese orchids, Dr. Averyanov was not positive. He noted that the primary forests are impossible to save but for small sections placed into preserves. The high rate of endemism (species that occur only in a few localized regions) means that many species will disappear. The national protected areas do provide jobs and training for young people who become students of botany.

Dr. Averyanov spoke highly of his interactions with the National Geographic, which has been funding his excursions in recent years. They have been supportive of his collections for herbarium specimens (pressed and dried as a record for taxonomists) before the species disappear from the wild. He noted, "I like living plants, but I like more the herbarium plants. Herbarium is forever."

Dr. Averyanov was extremely negative about CITES, the international treaty governing the traffic of plants and animals. He used such phrases as "disaster" and "absolutely negative." CITES, as applied to orchids, is supposed to restrict commerce in rare species, thereby preventing their removal from the wild; but many feel that by making sale of many species illegal, there is no incentive to produce them in the laboratory, while the wild-collecting goes on as a black market activity. Dr. Averyanov said, "I cannot think about CITES; it is terrible."

# Announcements

## ➤ Santa Barbara Spring Show!

The spring show is coming up and we will need your plants and your time to help our society do well. The *Santa Barbara Orchid Estate* has generously paid half a booth fee, so we will once again sell plants and have a need for volunteer sales help. Installation of the exhibit will occur on the same day as our regular meeting. Bring your plants by noon so the installers can finish by 5 PM and attend the meeting. We will need installation help. Heidi Kirkpatrick will be working as plant registrar and will have little time to place plants. See the next newsletter for more info!

## ➤ Sad News

Jeff Thompson reports that long-time Santa Barbara Show fixture Ernie Campuzano has passed away.

## ➤ New Volunteers Needed for Society Positions!

Several of our regular volunteers have performed their duties for a number of years and are ready to step down. Jeff Thompson has installed our spring and fall show exhibits for many years and is ready for a break. Carol Rogers would like to find someone else to run the raffle at our monthly meetings. And Angela Watt needs to train a treasurer to replace her. Support your society and volunteer for one of these positions! Successful meetings and exhibits do not happen without the efforts of volunteers..

## ➤ Orchid Volunteering Expedition in Spain

April 30 to May 6th. [www.identiacentre.net/orchid/index.htm](http://www.identiacentre.net/orchid/index.htm)  
Count and measure orchid populations, take photos, etc.

## ➤ AOS Survey

Included with your February and March AOS *Orchids* will be an important member survey. Save time and money by taking the survey online at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

## Pay Your OSSB Dues!

OSSB membership dues are \$30 annually, payable in January. Write your check to OSSB and send it to our treasurer:

Angela Watt  
513 Barling Terrace  
Goleta, CA 93117

You can also pay in person at the next meeting. Rosters will come out in April, so please update your address, telephone and email address! You can give this information to Angela or to Heidi Kirkpatrick at [orchidtrain@cox.net](mailto:orchidtrain@cox.net). Encourage your fellow orchid lovers to join, also. Member dues pay for speakers and for the monthly newsletter.

## January Show Table Results

Our show table challenge has begun again. Here is a quick review of the rules. Bring in a plant to show (be sure to sign the list) and receive one point. If your plant receives third place in member voting, you get two additional points. Second place is worth three points and first place is worth five points. Points are tabulated after the November meeting and winners are announced in December.

January's show table had many lovely plants and members could not decide on favorites. First place went to Bryce Augustine's *Phrag.* Mont Fallu 4n 'Quetival'. Second was a tie between Lance Schroeder's *Phrag.* St. Ouen 3n flava and Don Brown's *Den.* Avril's Gold. Third place honors went to Gene Baum (*Paph. lowii*), Ed Carter (*Onc. ornithorynchum*) and Don Varner (*Cym.* Isle 'Flamingo'). Thanks also to Jeff Thompson, the Claytons, Dick Swain and James Merriman for bringing plants.