

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2007

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

## Our Own Don Brown will speak about his recent trip to the famous Tokyo Dome Show

Don was fortunate enough to travel to the 2007 Tokyo Grand Prix, the biggest orchid show of them all. He will report on the displays he saw, particularly on the "toyoran," those highly prized cymbidiums and neofinetias cultivated in decorative pots along historical lines of artistry. This is an exciting show. For those of us who cannot travel to visit it, having an armchair tour with Don as our guide is the next best thing!

## Calendar of Events

### 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

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)

### 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.fcoss.org/show\\_info.html](http://www.fcoss.org/show_info.html)

### April 6-8, 2007

#### Torrance Cymbidium Society Show

California Hotel, 12 E. Ogden Ave., Las Vegas, NV. Contact:  
Carol Siegal 702-254-4168 or [growlove@cox.net](mailto:growlove@cox.net)

### April 7-8, 2007

#### Golden Gate Cymbidium Society Show

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Free admission. 9 am to 5 pm. Call 510-276-2851.

### April 14-15, 2007

#### Newport Harbor Orchid Society Show

Roger's Garden, 2301 San Joaquin Hills Rd., Corona del Mar.  
Jim Miller at 949-707-0728 or [jim\\_miller100@hotmail.com](mailto:jim_miller100@hotmail.com)

### April 21-22, 2007

#### Sacramento Orchid Society Show

Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St., Sacramento. For information contact Galen Carpenter at 530-672-0776 or [www.sacramentoorchids.org](http://www.sacramentoorchids.org)

## Summary of the February 2007 Meeting

- President Don Brown reminded everyone to pay their annual dues to OSSB. Don't forget to update your contact information for the roster.
- Ellen Goodstein spoke about the show preview party, to benefit Sansum Diabetes Foundation research. This year's preview party, held on March 15 from 5-7:30 pm, will be held in honor of the late Al Svoboda. Tickets are \$60 in advance or \$75 at the door.
- Sandy Svoboda, who is the Santa Barbara International Show Manager, informed the membership of several opportunities to work for the show. Docent tours will be held every half hour at the Thursday night preview party; docents receive free admission to the party. Positions are available as security (easy) and taking tickets at the door; these pay \$10 an hour. Ribbon judging is open to orchid society members and begins at 10 am on Thursday. Ribbon judges are eligible to participate in the judges' luncheon at noon. Display judging is at 9 am and AOS judging at 1 pm. Sandy is also looking for docents to lead school tours for children from Adams Elementary School. Tours begin at 8:45 am on Friday; be there at 8:30 am to lead a tour. Note that the school children are very well-behaved and that their teachers do accompany them. Sandy also announced that this year there will be a class for artwork at the show. This includes photos, sculptures, paintings, and other items. Check the show website for rules, [www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com)
- David Thurber announced that the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society has a new meeting location at the Franklin Neighborhood Center, 1136 E. Montecito, in Santa Barbara.
- Art Denk installed an informational display for the month of March at the downtown branch of the public library. Check it out!
- Sign up for refreshments! No one signed up for February refreshments, so there weren't any. If you enjoy the snacks at the meetings, you need to help contribute.
- Jeff Thompson, our longtime and faithful display installer, clarified the previous request for new help. Jeff is willing to continue with hardware installation. He does not, however, want to think up the theme or design of the display.
- Don Brown reported that AOS judges have inquired about the possibility of holding a monthly judging in conjunction with our monthly meetings. This would involve 1) switching nights with SBCS; 2) renting another room for the judges; and 3) renting a lockable closet for their materials. Positives include the potential for drawing a larger crowd and maybe more members, the convenience of having plants judged (particularly for north county orchid growers), the cachet of having a judging center. Negatives include potential costs involved with room and closet rental, and the loss of judges like Paul Gripp and Bryce Augustine, our current show table commentators, at our meetings. Sandy Svoboda, also

an AOS judge, noted that the judges would be willing to report to the membership on the results of judging and that it would take about a year to approve and set up a new judging center with the AOS. Josh Davis moved in principle to approve the idea of holding AOS judging in conjunction with OSSB meetings. The motion was seconded by Gene Baum and passed with one nay and several abstentions.

- Speaker Eric Holenda reminded everyone that the Five Cities Orchid Show is two weeks after the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. The show will have 8 vendors. Their Friday night benefit will be \$35, with the proceeds going to Alzheimer research.

## Program

President Don Brown introduced our February speakers, Christina and Eric Holenda. The Holendas met on an orchid hunting trip, with Eric in attendance as the orchidist and Christina as the photographer. Since then, they have been on a number of orchid hunting trips in various countries and in the US. Their topic of the evening was their recent trip to Ecuador.

Eric began by noting that Ecuador is a country defined by the two ranges of the Andes Mountains that run through it. In contrast, Colombia has three ranges and Bolivia one range. Ecuador's capital, Quito, lies in the central valley.

Quito and environs are characterized by agriculture at elevations of 4000 to 6000 feet. Steep valley sides are not conducive to agriculture and these are covered with native flora, including orchids. Going up in elevation from Quito toward the East, the Holendas encountered old lava flows at the top of a pass. This region was great for orchids, including a number of *Odontoglossom* species like *Odont. pardenum*. Eric noted that many of these will not bloom successfully in our area because they need very cold nights. Elevations where they encountered odontoglossoms were as high as 10,000 feet. Here "full sun" is moderated by an almost constant mist.

On the East slope of the Eastern mountain range, headed down toward the Amazon, the Holendas encountered a number of interesting cool growers, including *Phrag. lindenii*, the pouchless phrag. A number of *Stelis*, *Pleurothallis*, and *Lepanthes* species could be found by the sharp-eyed. There was also a bromeliad with a spike the size of a baseball bat; when fully open, it would reach 15 feet!

Eric and Christina visited Ecuador in February and March. At these elevations, primarily 4000—6000 feet, daytime temperatures were roughly 60°F, which Eric equated with flannel shirt temperatures. Thriving in this environment, fully exposed, they found a *Sobralia rosea*, plus other sobralias, including a purple-lipped, white flowered species, and a white-flowered one that never opens completely and always self-pollinates.

Cyrtorchilums are usually known for their extremely long and

vinelike spikes. *Cyrtorchilum macranthum* is no exception, but the Holendas encountered a short spiked form with an inflorescence of only three feet. This striking flower has dusty golden and tan petals with purple markings near the lip base.

Ecuador is home to some thousand species of epidendrums. They are very evident growing on roadside cliffs in clumps of color. The Holendas photographed a number of unidentified species. Along with the epis, Ecuador is also home to any species of moths, of which a few very striking ones were shared by Christina.

The Holendas saw several *Elleanthus* species, including *Elleanthus zamorantes*, which displayed a big cluster of flowers in a red, spiky ball. *Elleanthus furfuraceus* was similar, but in orange. These plants have foliage similar to that of sobralias, but clusters of small flowers near or at the ends of the flowering spike.

In addition to a number of stellis and pleurothallis species, the Holendas encountered several maxillarias, including one with a flower of almost black with red. Another species had very long petals, while a third showed white petals. There was also an attractive blush species with touches of pink on a very stiff-leaved plant.

Below 4000 feet elevation, plants are warmer growing. As the Holendas headed to the Amazon River Basin, they found that old citrus groves were good hunting grounds for orchids—particularly those groves that were not regularly maintained by their owners. As an example of this, they showed an *Ornithocephalus* with white flowers and seed pods on a citrus tree.

This is the land of snakes and caterpillars and heliconia. They saw cacao plants, from which cocoa is derived. The flowers, noted Christina, are the size of a dime, but the pods are the size of footballs!

Though the treetops were covered with epiphytes, not a lot was in bloom near the canopy. The Holendas found a number of interesting species closer to the forest floor. As Christina put it, it was “like looking for buried treasure, and you see treasure everywhere you go.”

Treasure included a deep, blood-red and glossy pleurothallis and fuzzy little stellis. It included a pendent epi with lots of flowers and a clear yellow epi. It included what Eric noted was a much more stereotypical cyrtorchilum, *Cyrtorchilum trifricatum*. This specimen had a twelve foot spike of burnt-orange to brick-red flowers.

Amidst brush on an embankment was *Phrag. longifolium*. This very steep slope was also very lush, with many ferns and other orchids. Eric noted that road cuts are good places to find orchids, which seem to do well on the disturbed ground. Road cuts that are ten to fifteen years old seem to be the best, as orchids have had the time to get established but haven't been overgrown by more vigorous plants.

The Holendas encountered a striking species from the genus *Brachycladium*. Not only was the flower a gorgeous blood red, but the leaf was red also. The strong red pigmentation protects the leaf, which would be in direct sun whenever the mist parted. Also on the hillside were brassias

At low elevation was a *Pleuro. truncata*, whose dozen or so flowers look like little orange balls on a big leaf. A bright pink *Comparettia* clung to a branch in an old citrus grove, while a stellis

grew on the ground in mossy gravel that was wet all the time. Some of the stellis plants found by the Holendas were “little jewels” and one plant was smaller in size than a thumb.

High in the Andes at 11,000 feet, the Holendas found a number of masdevallias growing terrestrially, including *Masd. lehmannii*, *Masd. gramminea*, *Masd. pachyura*, *Masd. dynastes*. Growing epiphytically, usually about five to six feet off the ground, were *Masd., porphyria*, *Masd. dalstromii*, and the red-tube-flowered *Masd. nidiphica*. This was a cold weather region, at the foot of a high volcano, where llamas dwell and the human inhabitants wear llama wool.

Where are the Holendas headed next? Borneo! We hope to hear from them when they get back!

## Cymbidium Congress - No Late Registration Fee!

This year's annual Cymbidium Congress will be conveniently held at Adams Elementary School, next to the showgrounds. And what a slate of speakers!

**Kobsukh Kaenratana** from Thailand will speak on some cym species in their natural habitats. He is widely regarded as one of the premiere cymbidium hybridizers in Southeast Asia.

**Frank Smith** from the Florida-based Krull-Smith Orchids will intrigue paph lovers out there. The nursery, thanks to Smith's breeding, has earned more AOS awards than any other nursery.

**Ernest Hetherington** is a favorite with history buffs. This patriarch of the orchid world will talk about cymbidiums in Southern California 1950-1980, and about some of the founders of the CSA.

**Bert Ruiter** has been growing and breeding cymbidiums for the Netherlands' pot plant industry for 20 years will discuss what is popular in Europe.

**Chris Cobb** is an Australian cymbidium species expert who will cover the three Aussie cym: suave, madidum, and canaliculatum, and will include footage of his recent explorations in the wild.

**Ron Parsons** is regarded as one of the finest flower photographers in the US and has been photographing orchids for over 25 years, amassing over 80,000 slides. He is also an avid orchid grower, particularly of Asian cymbidiums.

**Akihita Nagata**, president of Aichi Toyoke Flower Auction, will speak on orchid trends in Japan. His program will include facts about orchid production and sales as well as Japanese orchids and culture.

In addition to this terrific slate of speakers, full registration includes continental breakfast, luncheon, no-host cocktail party and auction, gala awards banquet, commemorative pin, and unlimited entry to the show. For \$100, that is a steal of a deal.

If you think this is just for “experts” or “professional growers”, let me tell you that everyone is welcome. The presentations will have fabulous slides and it is a great opportunity to meet other cymbidium lovers.

For information or a brochure, check out [www.cymbidium.org](http://www.cymbidium.org), call or email me, or contact Congress organizer, Lucia Brandt, 1912 Armacost Ave., LA, C 90025, 310-826-0994, email; [luciamariebrandt@gmail.com](mailto:luciamariebrandt@gmail.com). Hurry!

## Spring Show Announcements

### ► Display Help! Deliver Plants by Noon!

OSSB needs plants for our display and volunteers to help install the plants. This involves making name tag labels, placing plants, covering pots, etc. So everyone can get to the meeting, the display will be finished by 5 pm. If you don't bring your plant by noon, it may not make it into the display.

### ► Hospitality

If you want to volunteer but are uncomfortable standing, you can sit at the society table, which will have information about OSSB, SBSCS, CSA, AOS, OD, etc. Smile pretty and encourage folks to join any orchid organization you can.

### ► Sales Booth Volunteers

We are again grateful to the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for paying half the booth fee. We need plenty of volunteers to man the booth, including several to work with Angela, who is looking for someone to take over as treasurer. This is an important money maker for the society, so your help is important.

### ► Selling Your Plants at the Show

If you have plants to sell, you must make a numbered list of your plants and have an orange sales tag in each plant (available from Angela Watt). On this orange tag should be: 1) the price of the plant; 2) the initials of the seller; and 3) the number of the plant from the seller's plant list. OSSB keeps 25% of the sales price. The orange tag helps us keep track of the sale.

## 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). This is the last month to pay your dues. If you have not paid, you will not receive your April newsletter.

## February Show Table Results

We have a number of new members, so here is a quick review of the rules. Bring in a blooming 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.

February's show table got a compliment from Bryce Augustine, who said it was as nice as anything he saw at the Orange County Show. Dick Swain did very well, garnering first, second and third places with *Laelia Maronii* (*anceps* x *rubescens*), *Cym.* (Vanguard 'Mas Beauty 4n x Icho Tower 'Trinity'), and *Slc.* Hazel Boyd 'Elizabeth, a plant that grows better cool. Jeff Thompson tied for third with his *Mediocalcar decora*. Thanks also to Gene Baum and Don Brown for bringing plants to share.