

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 13, 2007

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

Potting Demo: 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Lauris Rose of Cal-Orchid will speak about Orchid Culture Tips We All Should Know

Interested in culture? This is the meeting for you! Come hear cultural advice from an expert, and one who knows our local environment so well. Lauris Rose began her orchid career in 1973 and has worked at such well-known nurseries as Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Stewart Orchids before joining her husband, James, at Cal-Orchid, Inc, which the Roses own. Today, she travels all over the world and is a highly regarded orchid lecturer. Those of you who have heard her speak know that Lauris is entertaining and informative; her topic should be near and dear to all our orchid growing hearts!

Potting Demonstration: Jeff Thompson continues his series on potting orchids in various different media.

OSSB Officers for 2007:

President - Don Brown

Treasurer - Angela Watt

Vice President - Carole Thompson

Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick

Visit the OSSB Web Site!

www.orchidsb.net

Calendar of Events

June 9, 2007

Orchid Society of Southern California Auction

First Christian Church, 221 South 6th St., Burbank, CA., www.orchidssc.org or 818-845-0492.

July 13-15, 2007

27th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Fri-Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4. Free admission; parking \$5. Be sure to check out the open house at the nursery!

Looking ahead...

January 23-27, 2008

19th World Orchid Conference

Miami, Florida. Full registration prior to June 30, 2007 is \$250; after June 30 it is \$300. Full registration includes the preview party, unlimited entry to shows and lectures, closing ceremony, and a registration packet. Companion registration (\$150, one per full registrant) includes everything but the registration packet. Single day registration is available. Show entry is \$20. For the non-orchid spouse, there are plenty of day trips in Miami, some of them pretty reasonably priced. Check out the website at www.19woc.com for more information or to register.

February 29-March 2, 2008

63rd Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Note the early date of next year's show!

Summary of the May 2007 Meeting

- ❁ Vice President Carole Thompson welcomed visitors and thanked Joyce Tolle for bringing the May refreshments.
- ❁ OSSB needs to plan for its Fall Show, and this includes suggestions for a theme. If you have an idea for the theme, suggest it at the June meeting or email it to your editor, Heidi Kirkpatrick, at orchidtrain@cox.net.

Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our May speaker, Dr. Helmut Rohrl, a professor of mathematics who has grown orchids since the 1960s. Rohrl, who is an AOS judge and on the editorial boards of the *Orchid Digest* and the *CSA Journal*, is a recognized expert on a number of different types of orchids and has written seven orchid manuals for judges and serious hobbyists. Rohrl spoke to us on members of the *Oncidiinae*, a group of genera from Central and South America that contain some 1300 to 1500 species.

With so many different species, it is not surprising that orchids in this group, which includes genera like the familiar *Oncidium* and *Miltonia*, show a wide range of characteristics. Habitats include hot and dry, hot and humid, cold and dry and cold and humid. Plants range in size from tiny to huge. Spikes can be short and single-flowered or to 5 meters (!) with many flowers. Individual flowers can be small or large; some *Brassia* species have “tails” that reach to 18 inches (45 cm). Colors include white, green, yellow, deep red-purple, and dark chocolate-brown. There is no true black and no true blue, although some clones of dark purple *Odontoglossum edwardii* can be almost blue (and individual spikes can have to 300 small flowers).

Rohrl noted that *Oncidiinae* can be rewarding for hybridizers, who find a large variety of color and shape to work with amongst the various species. He presented an overview of notable species and some successful hybrids from this large group of orchids. The following is a list of some of the slides discussed by Rohrl.

Brassia gireoudiana - Starry flowers to 18 inches tip-to-tip appearing 15 to 20 per spike.

Brassia verrucosa - From Central America. Greenish tones with creamy lip and long narrow petals and sepals.

Brassia arcuigera - Petals and sepals more yellow-tan.

Ada keiliana - Adas are often considered “poor relatives” of brassias. Ada flowers tend to be smaller and with darker colors. This species has 3 to 4 inch flowers. The exception is *Ada aurantiaca*, valued by hybridizers for its bright orange color.

Cochlioda vulcanica - A native of high elevations. Plants require a marked difference between day and night temperatures. Flowers are a rich pink.

Cochlioda noezliana - Valued by hybridizers for its strong orange-red coloration. The red in many *Odontioda* (*Odontoglossum x Cochlioda*) hybrids comes from this species.

Miltonia clowesii - *Miltonia* now refers to the Brazilian miltonias, which often bring low flower counts to their hybrids. This species has a white lip and a starry shape of gold with brown spots.

Miltonia spectabilis - A showy species with a 4½ inch flower in purplish maroon, but only one to two flowers per spike.

Miltonia regnelii - Pale pink with darker pink lip.

Miltoniopsis vexillaria - *Miltoniopsis* contains species from Colombia, now considered separate from their Brazilian cousins. Rohrl noted that the reflexing of the segments is unfortunately dominant in the hybrids. This species is white with red markings at the center of the lip.

Miltoniopsis roezlii - White flowers with red on the petals near the center.

Miltoniopsis bismarkii - Soft pink flowers. Rohrl observed that he does not like using this genus in hybridizing because of the reflexion. It takes four to five generations of hybridizing with odonts to remove the reflexed shape of the segments, by which time the flowers are shaped like odonts!

Odontoglossum cirrhosum - A floriferous native of South America. The 3 inch white (with some spots) flowers come 60 to 80 on the 5 to 6 foot spike; Rohrl likened a blooming spike to a flock of birds.

Odontoglossum nobile - Formerly *Odont. pescatorii*. Flowers are white with brown spots. Odonts are found commonly in Colombia and Peru.

Odontoglossum crispum - The best shape in the genus. Flowers are large and white. In the 1800s, plants came from South America by the tens of thousands. Most died aboard ship. Those that survived died in the English hot houses of the time, since the species is a cool grower.

Odontoglossum praestans - Brown flowers with an open shape.

Odontoglossum hallii - Nice 3 to 3½ inch flowers of tan with brown spots the white lip also with brown.

Odontoglossum spectatissimum - Formerly *Odont. triumphans*. Brown markings on a greenish-tan background.

Odontoglossum harryanum - Browns with white on the lip. Petals flex forward.

Odontoglossum wyattianum - Closely related to the above species.

Rhynchostele cervatesii - These Mexican odonts were placed in a separate genus.

Rhynchostele bictoniense - The dark brown and purple with purple lip form makes dark colored progeny. Using a lighter clone will result in lots of patterns.

Rhynchostele maculata - Flowers of yellow with orange-brown.

Rhynchostele rossii - White with brown markings. The best clones have to 14 flowers per spike, but these are rarely seen. More common are 4 to 6 flowers per spike. The lower flower count is not restrictive in hybridizing.

Oncidium leucochilum - Brown markings on tan sepals and petals. The lip is white with interesting, light purple “wings” on the

column.

Oncidium varicosum - The yellow "dancing lady" with a red spot at the top of the lip.

Oncidium fuscatum - Formerly *Milt. warszewiczii*. The extensive use of this reddish species under its previous name brings up the problem of renaming hybrids!

Oncidium tigrinum - A species from Mexico with a yellow lip and dark brown bars on the petals and sepals.

Cyrtorchilum geniculatum - Members of this genus formerly were in *Oncidium*. *Cyrtorchilums* are damp cool growers from South American cloud forests. They are known for their long, narrow spikes twining to thirty feet.

Cyrtorchilum macrantum - The spikes of this yellow and brown flowered species wind through bushes and low trees.

Cyrtorchilum loxense - Brown flower with orange lip.

Cyrtorchilum gargantua - Brown flower. Yellow petals with brown spots.

Tolumnia pulchella - These twig epiphytes from Jamaica and the Caribbean were formerly known as equitant *oncidiums*. This species has dusty rose flowers.

Tolumnia desertorum - Red-orange with white on the petals.

Tolumnia compressicaule - Yellow-orange flowers. Many of the hybrids in this genus are highly colored and marked.

Tolumnia triquetra - Pale yellow with brown markings. Grow *tolumnias* in tiny pots with little medium, or on mounts. They will flower one year out of flask. Plants in a 1½ inch clay pot will make two to three spikes, each with up to 15 flowers.

Rohrl gave members an overview of hybrids with the following. He noted that some of the best crosses were made between 1908 and 1916, when there was a flurry of hybridizing with these orchids. Many beautiful hybrids have been made since, but there have been no strikingly new developments. However, many species and hybrids were lost during WWI and WWII.

Adaglossum Wild Kingdom (*Ada aurantiaca* x *Odontoglossum spectatissimum*) - Yellow segments with brown markings. White lip with orange-brown markings.

Hamiltonara Golden Harry (*Banfieldara* Gold Star x *Odontioda* Harry Baldwin) - Golden yellow flowers with red-brown marks.

Brassada Orange Delight (*Ada aurantiaca* x *Brassia* Mary Traub Levin) - Strong orange color from the *ada* parent with a *brassia* shape and size.

Aspoglossum Thunderbird (*Aspasia principissa* x *Odontoglossum* Edna Thirza Hankin) - Big red-brown flowers.

Aspoglossum Success (*Aspasia principissa* x *Odontoglossum* Perrytonia) - White overlaid with brown bars. Note that *aspasias* make nice hybrid lips, though Rohrl noted that the species are not so interesting. However, *aspasias* have three to four months with no rain, only dew. The hybrids do best with similar treatment—a dry winter with only a little water.

Aspasiium Thunder Storm (*Aspasia principissa* x *Oncidium fuscatum*) - Brown segments; lip white with pale purple, yellow and red.

Banfieldara Gold Star (*Brassada* Mem. Bert Field x *Odontoglossum* Yellowstone Basin) - Golden with a starry shape.

Blackara Everglades (*Milpasia* Sandy Gibson x *Odontioda* Alstir) - Purple flowers with white surrounding red-purple spots.

Lagerara Belle Glade (*Aspasia principissa* x *Odontioda* Memtor) - Light and dark purple with white. White lip with yellow at center.

Lagerara Grand Bahamas (*Aspasia epidendroides* x *Odontioda* Floricon) - Brown-purple segments with white edging; lip white with purple marks, yellow in center.

Rohrlara Helmut (*Adapasia* Congo x *Brassia* Rex) - Large, starry flowers in cream and tan colors with brown markings. Named after our speaker by Milton Carpenter.

Rhyncho brassia Gordon Dillon (*Brassia maculata* x *Rhyncho stele bictoniense*) - Highly colored flower. Narrow yellow segments heavily covered with brown, plus a bright red lip.

Aliceara Iro Otoko (*Aliceara* Dorothy Oka x *Miltonia* Castanea) - pale pink and lavender with some darker markings.

Aliceara Maury Island (*Miltassia* Vino x *Oncidium marshallianum*) - Pretty red lip with markings on a yellow flower with brown spots.

Aliceara Sheila Mosley (*Miltassia* Premier x *Miltonidium* Richard Petersson) - White/pale pink overlaid with many purple markings. Lip flushed pink with spots. Pretty.

Beallara Diane Dunn (*Miltassia* Citron x *Odontioda* Mem. Helen Scholl) - Red-purple markings on white.

Beallara Sovereign (*Miltassia* Starfighter x *Odontioda* Rixro) - Purple-red bars and spots on white.

McLellanara Pagan Love Song (*Odontocidium* Tiger Butter x *Brassia verrucosa*) - Yellow flowers with brown markings. These colors are most common for this artificial genus.

McLellanara Jerry Rehfield (*Odontocidium* Tiger Butter x *Brassia* Rex) - Yellow and brown with a white lip. Named for a member of our society who passed away several years ago.

Miltassia Akuma (*Miltassia* Vino x *Miltonia clowesii*) - Starry flowers of bright yellow with red-purple spots; purple lip.

Degarmoara Golden Aztec (*Miltassia* Aztec x *Odontoglossum* Golden Filigree) - Five inch flowers of yellow with a white lip, all with brown spots.

Degarmoara Inge Bihari (*Odontoglossum* Quisto x *Miltassia* Olmec) - Reds and purples with spots.

Alexanderara Flaming Warrior (*Brassidium* Wild Warrior x *Odontioda* Flaming Planet) - Brown with white lip with red-brown markings.

Miltonia Belle Glade (*Miltonia* Castanea x *Miltonia* Lanikai) - Tan with brown bars and a purple lip. Product of Brazilian *miltonia* hybrids.

Miltonia Castable (*Miltonia* Delectable x *Miltonia* Cast Moon) - Strong red with yellow at the ends of the petals and sepals.

Goodaleara N.R. (*Beallara* Tahoma Glacier x *Miltonidium* Ecuador) - Brown-purple on white. This artificial genus honors Goodale, who Rohrl noted made some 42,000 (count those zeros!) crosses.

continued...

Rohrl listed a number of other hybrids, but space does not permit their inclusion. For more about those hybrids, contact Heidi (563-2894 or orchidtrain@cox.net).

Note the profusion of artificial genus names (for hybrids with three or more genera) like *Goodaleara* or *Beallara* or *McClellanara*. Artificial genus names always end in "ara". And they can be confusing. Rohrl told the membership of a current proposal to deal with this problem in the *Cattleya* alliance by calling all hybrids *Cattleyana*. Of course, this make a big confusing out of over a hundred years of hybridizing. After all, there are a number

of names that are used more than once, say for a *Bc.* and then a *Lc.* or even an *Slc.*

Even without this confusion, Rohrl noted that we are seeing more divergence between horticulture and taxonomy. He believes this divergence will continue as taxonomists continue to rename genera and species. Rohrl feels that while breeders will have to keep up with taxonomic changes to register their hybrids, most hobbyists will neglect the results of DNA studies. Hobbyists who have a plant in their growing area are not likely to update the name for every taxonomic change.

Cover Photo

This month's cover photo of *Lc. Canhamiana* was taken a number of years ago by the late Alan Chovil, who was a member of our society. I include it here as a little bit of a lesson. This plant is currently living under your editor's care, and while I haven't bloomed it as well as he did, I have bloomed it. In my greenhouse. Which has a standard-sized door.

The lesson is this: If you want to grow specimen plants inside a structure, make sure the structure has wide enough doors for the plant to be extracted without decapitating the flowers. I learned this from a lecture by our own Don Brown, unfortunately after it was already too late. This year, that plant is getting divided.

May Show Table Results

First place on this showy display table was a tie between *Psychopsis papilio* (James Merriman) and *Oncidium spacelatum* (Jeff Thompson). Second was a tie between *Iwanagaara* Apple Blossom, *C. Claesiana* x Prospect), both belonging to Ed and Shirly Carter, and Dick Swain's *Cym. canaliculatum*. Third place was (again!) a tie between James Merriman's *Epi.* species whose name I can't read, Dick Swain's *Slc.* Patricia Taafee and Randal Umland's vanda, the name of which I do not have. Thanks to these exhibitors and everyone who brought plants to show, including Frank Methmann, Len Jarrott, the Claytons and Josh Davis.