

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

our own **Bryce Augustine**
will speak about
How To Select Orchids

Did you find the vendor area of the recent show to be both incredibly enticing and dizzyingly overwhelming? Were you confused about how to select a good plant? Come listen to our own Bryce Augustine discuss what he looks for when he selects orchids. Bryce graduated from UCSB with a degree in botany and owns Monsoon Flora Orchid Lab. He is an AOS judge and chair of the newly formed Central Coast AOS Judging Center, located in Santa Barbara. Bryce will also supply the raffle table, which probably means lots of delightful paphs and phrags, so don't forget your wallets!

OSSB Officers for 2008:

President - Randall Umland
Treasurer - PJ Sanderson

Vice President - Carole Thompson
Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick

Visit the OSSB Web Site!

www.orchidsb.net

Calendar

March 15, 2008

Orchid Society of Southern California Auction

Doors open at 1PM., Auction begins at 2PM. Meeting Hall, First Christian Church, 221 South 6th Street, Burbank, CA, 91501. Free admission, free door prize raffle, refreshments. www.orchidssc.org

March 15-16, 2008

South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale

10AM to 5PM. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3331 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA. Admission: \$5 for adults. Free parking. Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com or 310-833-1918

April 4-6, 2008

62nd Annual San Diego County Orchid Society Show "Orchid Opulence"

Friday 4PM-9PM. Saturday 9AM-6PM. Sunday 9AM-4PM. Scottish Rite Temple, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, Admission \$6. www.sdorchids.com or 619-405-0412.

April 25-27, 2008

Orchids and The Flower Fields

Interstate 5 to Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad. East one block and turn left on Paseo Del Norte, then right into parking lot. 9 AM to 6 PM. Show free with purchase of admission to The Flower Fields. Free parking. (760) 431-0352 or www.theflowerfields.com.

July 11-13, 2008

Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair

David Du Puy will be the featured guest, promoting his new edition of *The Genus Cymbidium*.

Summary of the February 2008 Meeting

❁ American Orchid Society rates are going up to reflect increased postage and printing costs. However, the AOS is holding a sale until March 31, with memberships at old prices. Two year sign ups or renewals will receive a coupon worth \$30 off on a retail purchase of \$100 or more from one of more at one of these 12 nurseries:

Carmela Orchids, Carter & Holmes Orchids, Gold Country Orchids, Hoosier Orchid Company, IGS, Krull-Smith, Norman's Orchids, OFE International, Piping Rock Orchids, Quest Orchids, R.F. Orchids, Inc., Soroa Orchids, Inc.

New Members:

Individual - \$49.95/year or two years for \$99.95
Joint - \$64.95/year or two years for \$129.95

Current Members:

Current members may extend their membership for two (2) years at the \$99.95 rate.

Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our February speaker, Dave Benzo, past owner-hybridizer of Great Hawaiian Orchids Ltd. of Maui, now an AOS senior judge and resident of Morro Bay. Benzo spoke to us about *Cattleya aurantiaca* and its hybrids. He noted that he wrote this talk to help heighten awareness of the importance of this species in the background of modern high color cattleya alliance plants. He added that he uses "classical" terminology in this talk, as in cattleya and brassolaeliacattleya and sophronitis.

Cattleya aurantiaca is found in Central America, particularly Guatemala, but also Verracruz Mexico on the Gulf side. There are two forms, with the lowland form tending to self-pollinate. Some populations of the lowland form are found near *C. skinneri*. *C. aurantiaca* is typically orange and red-orange in color with cupped flowers in a head on the spike. There is an aurea form (yellow), which is shorter with fewer flowers. This form may be part of a Guatemalan complex or hybrid swarm.

Confusion about "superior" and differently colored forms of this species may be the natural hybrid *C. x guatemalensis*, which appears to be a cross of *C. aurantiaca* and *C. skinneri*. In 1979, Stewart Orchids released the sensational *C. aurantiaca* 'White Magic', which received a 91 point FCC for its superior shape and white color; authorities now consider this to be

an example of the natural hybrid. Some clones awarded for unusual shape and color may also be natural hybrids.

Plants of this species are relatively large sized and prefer bright light. They like to dry thoroughly between waterings and Benzo recommended a freely draining mix.

C. aurantiaca has been used in breeding with great effect. The following are some of the notable hybrids that have used this species.

- *C. Chocolate Drop (aurantiaca x guttata)*—'Kodama' is the most famous clone of this successful hybrid that has earned 17 AOS awards.
- *C. Why Not (C. aurantiaca x Broughtonia sanguinea)*—A successful Stewart Orchids cross with a fun story. Employee Charlie Simon was learning from the great Ernest Hetherington and was encouraged to make crosses, but Ernest would cut off the pods. Finally, Charlie commented on this and asked, "So what about this one?" Ernest said, "Why Not?"
- *C. Dual Aura (C. aurantiaca x C. Claesiana)*—Flowers open pink or yellow and fade to silvery white. Note that thorty on orchid biology and science with some 30 books and articles to his credit. He spoke very entertainingly on the Ethnobotany of Orchids. "Ethnobotany" is a combination of two words and refers to how different cultures use plants.
- *Lc. Rojo (C. aurantiaca x L. milleri)*—Benzo noted that the bright reds of this 1965 cross are exciting even today. The laelia parent is a lithophyte that particularly detests wet feet. This hybrid does best in extremely bright light.
- *Lc. Chit Chat (C. aurantiaca x L. Coronet)*—Will make large specimens, as evident from the 5 CCM awards for this cross.
- *Lc. Trick or Treat (Lc. Chit Chat x L. Icarus)*—This popular cross has received 19 awards.
- *Bc. Daffodil (B. glauca x C. aurantiaca)*—A charming primary from 1949 with a thick, waxy, yellow flower.
- *Slc. Jewel Box (Slc. Anzac x C. aurantiaca)*—A famous 1962 Stewart Orchids cross with 27 AOS awards, including 18 CCM awards, most of which went to 'Scheherzade'. 'Dark Water' is another famous clone, but Benzo also recommended 'Heartthrob' and 'Beverly'.
- *Slc. Hazel Boyd (California Apricot x Jewel Box)*—*C. aurantiaca* is one quarter of this cross, which has received 48 merit awards, including an AQ. Benzo reported that the cross produces 75% reds, 23% oranges and flares, and 2% clear yellows.

2008 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Report

Congratulations to our hard-working display installers and sales volunteers. OSSB's award-winning display was installed by Frank Methmann, Randall Umland, Jeff Thompson and Eugene Hagerty. Plants were provided by the above, plus Ed and Shirly Carter, Norm and Joyce Wieder, Don Thorn and Heidi Kirkpatrick. Congratulations also to members who installed their own displays, including Ed and Shirly Carter, Phil and Angela Watt, Bryce and Nancy Augustine, and new member Jim Sloniker. Member Betty Watt displayed delightful embroidery in the art division. Please notify me if I have missed anyone!

The following is a partial list of trophy and ribbon winners. My apologies for not having the AOS award information.

Best Educational/Scientific Display (Parma Trophy)

Santa Barbara Orchid Garden & Library (Paul Gripp)

Most Artistic Display (Seeburg Trophy)—Andy's Orchids

Best Theme (Haberlitz Trophy)—OSSB

Orchid Digest Show Trophy—Ventura Farms

American Orchid Society Show Trophy—Ventura Farms

International Phalaenopsis Alliance Show Trophy—Ventura Farms

Cymbidium Society of America Gold Medal Cymbidium

Display—Hatfield Orchids

Cymbidium Society of America Gold Medal Paphiopedilum

Display—Orchids Royale

Best Display over 100 sq feet (society)—Malibu OS

Best Display over 100sq feet (amateur)—Ventura Farms

Best Display under 100 sq ft (society)—OSSB

Best Display under 100 sq ft (amateur)—Weegie Caughlan

Best Foreign Display—Down Under Native Orchids

Best Orchid In Show (Gallup & Stribling Trophy)

Laelia anceps 'San Bar Marble King'

Grand Champion Cymbidium (Mosher Trophy)

Cym (Karen x Hawaiian Sunset) 'Hatfield'—

George Hatfield

Reserve Champion Cymbidium (Chrisman Trophy)

Cym Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'—Mariposa Gardnes

Tony Velardi

Australian Species Den, 1st place—*Den. tetagonum giganteum*

'Joyce', Norm Wieder

Multihue Phal, 3rd—Dtps (Sogo Davis x Sogo Valentine) 'Marble'

Jim Sloniker

Phrag species, 1st—*Phrag richteri*, Bryce Augustine

Phrag hybrid, 1st—Phrag Jason Fisher 'Tiera's Red Star',
Lance Schroeder

Phrag hybrid, 2nd—Phrag Hanne Popow 'Love Flush',
Lance Schroeder

Phrag hybrid, 3rd—Phrag Bel Croute 'Golden Girl',
Patricia Shroeder

Paph species, sections Polyantha & Cochlopetalum, 1st—
Paph. victoria-regina, Bryce Augustine

Paph species, sections Polyantha & Cochlopetalum, 2nd—
Paph. lowii, Bryce Augustine

Paph species, sections Polyantha & Cochlopetalum, 3rd—
Paph. rothschildianum, Bryce Augustine

Paph species, sections Brachypetalum & Parvisepalum, 1st—
Paph. malipoense, Bryce Augustine

Paph species, sections Brachypetalum & Parvisepalum, 2nd—
Paph. malipoense, Bryce Augustine

Paph species, sections Brachypetalum & Parvisepalum, 3rd—
Paph. malipoense, Bryce Augustine

Paph species, sections Paphiopedilum & Sigmatopetalum, 1st—
Paph. lowii, Gene Baum

Paph hybrids, sequential multi-flowered 3rd—Paph (Avalon Mist
x *druryi*), Bryce Augustine

Paph hybrids, multioflowered, 3rd—Paph Buddy Mark
'Ryan Methmann', Frank Methmann

Paph hybrids, vinicolors, 1st—Paph (Anhinge x Hsinying Magic),
Jim Sloniker

Paph hybrids, white/pink novelty, 1st—Paph Bellatrix, Bryce
Augustine

Paph hybrids, chocolate/tan complex, 1st—Paph Grand
Champion 'Garnet Methmann', Frank Methmann

Cattleya and cymbidium ribbon winners will be reported in the April newsletter.

Announcements

❁ Five Cities Display

Thanks to Jeff Thompson and Eugene Hagerty for installing an OSSB display at the Five Cities Orchid Society Show. Plants were provided by the above, plus Bryce and Nancy Augustine, and new member Jim Sloniker.

❁ OSSB Membership Renewal

Members who have paid their 2008 dues will receive the 2008 membership roster in April and will continue to receive the OSSB newsletter. If you have not renewed and would like to renew, pay at the meeting or send your check to treasurer PJ Anderson. Please use the form on the back page so your contact information will be correct in the roster!

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Membership Renewal

Annual Membership is \$30. Make checks payable to OSSB. Memberships can be renewed at the monthly meeting or by sending your check to: PJ Sanderson, 2211 Alameda Padre Serra, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Please include the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Cover Photo

Thanks to Frank Methmann for this charming photograph of Paul Gripp and Ernest Hetherington in front of Paul's award-winning display about Ernest and his hybrids at the 2008 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Ernest Hetherington was honored by the show board for his contributions to the orchid world, and honored again at the Cymbidium Congress by the Cymbidium Society of America, adding to the recognition and numerous awards he has already received during his long career in the orchid world. Paul Gripp's display, installed under the label Santa Barbara Orchid Garden and Library, contained both archival photos of Ernest Hetherington and some of the plants hybridized by him. The display was awarded Best Educational Display.

February Show Table Results

Your editor apologizes to James Merriman for being unable to read her notes and misattributing his second place *Dracula polyphemus* last month.

This month, first place went to Heidi Kirkpatrick's *Pterostylis curta* 'Keun Hee'. James Merriman (*Ctna. Rosy Jewel*) and Jeff Thompson (*Dracula diana*) tied for second place. Heidi Kirkpatrick's *Pterostylis erecta* received third place. The show table in February had fewer plants than usual as members prepped for the upcoming show.