

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Special Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Inauguration of the Central Coast AOS Judging Center

It's here! The new Central Coast Judging Center for the American Orchid Society! Orchid Society of Santa Barbara is hosting a special welcome reception in honor of the new judging center. Listen to the judges as they introduce us to the judging process. Socialize with society members and guests. Bring your blooming plants and an appetizer to share at our April mini-show.

Schedule: **6:30 PM**

Arrive with blooming plants. Judging Chair Bryce Augustine and other judges will help separate plants into show table plants and plants for judging discussion. Learn how to fill out a judging form.

7:00 PM

Judges will discuss the judging process. This public judging session will help us all understand what makes an awardable orchid.

Break

Enjoy an opportunity to socialize with guests and other society members while browsing the society "mini-show." This month's refreshments will be a special society potluck of appetizers and finger foods.

What to Bring: **Blooming Plants!**

Let's show the judges what we grow here in Santa Barbara! Bring your blooming plants for a spectacular show table this month. Your show plant may even fit judging criteria!

Appetizers

Bring finger food or desserts to share with guests and other society members. The society will provide napkins, appetizer plates, and coffee.

Silent Auction: There will be a silent auction, with 25% of the sales price going to the society. There will be no April raffle table.

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

Questions? Call Heidi (563-2894) or Bryce (967-6355)

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

Summary of the March 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

Our own Bryce Augustine spoke to the membership about what he looks for in selecting an orchid. The path to orchid enlightenment begins with a grower's first orchid, for many an unlabeled blooming plant from Trader Joe's. Bryce remembered his first orchid, a phalaenopsis he purchased from Zuma Canyon Orchids in 1972. The phalaenopsis was \$15, today about \$78 with inflation! This comparison shows just how much orchid prices have dropped. Bryce noted the influence of inexpensive plants from overseas.

Bryce continued his description of the road to orchid enlightenment with the second step, a second orchid. Then comes a crucial point. Most budding orchid growers at this point kill their first orchids and want to know more. Perhaps they join a society like OSSB, hoping to further their knowledge, or because they have many more plants or because they want to bring plants to show off.

Further along the path to orchid enlightenment, many growers will join the American Orchid Society. Perhaps they feel more encouraged because they are not killing so many orchids. Perhaps they are feeling more knowledgeable because new members at local society meetings are asking them questions. Growers at this stage know how not to kill orchids. They know something about what a genus is and how to use fertilizer. The next step is perhaps a small green-

house. And at this point, Bryce made a statement many of us might recognize from our own orchid addictions: "My wife thinks I'm nuts."

At this point, most growers become more selective about what to grow. They are thinking beyond the cheap rewards of the society plant table. Growers at this stage of their orchid habit look for flower quality and horticultural aspects of a plant. They avoid plants without tags and often concentrate their study on a few groups of orchids. When purchasing a blooming plant, growers often examine the mix for signs of age, since commercial growers often overpush a plant with water and chilling to encourage bloom. Unfortunately, this can degrade the mix. Rootless paphs, for example, are very difficult to rehabilitate. Rootless cattleyas and cymbidiums are not quite as tricky.

And, of course, one must ask oneself whether to buy cheap or buy expensive.

Reviewing the basics of the major genera, Bryce began with *Phalaenopsis*. Phal flowers are round, full and flat with many flowers per spike. Members of the cattleya alliance have fewer flowers, but often large, full and flat ones, sometimes with fragrance. With multiple flowers, they should be unbunched on the spike for better presentation.

Many local growers enjoy cymbidiums for their outdoor growing ability. Flowers may be starlike, but standard types should be round and full and preferably not too cupped. New styles of cymbidiums popular now include miniatures and species. Paphiopedilum flowers have a distinctive pouched shape but in reality a large variation in different shapes and colors. According to the AOS judging handbook, hybrids should be an improvement over ancestral type.

When shopping, buyers should consider how to buy plants. One plant in bloom? Six seedlings? A compost? A flask? Bryce buys flasks and groups of six or twelve plants of the same cross. The middle bench of his greenhouse is six pots deep, which allows him easily to compare blooms among a group of seedlings. Once he blooms a group, he keeps only the best.

As Bryce became more selective in purchasing his plants, he wanted to know more about what made a good plant. Many growers find awarded plants desirable either as divisions or as parents of a cross. But Bryce took the next step and became involved in the AOS judging system.

Our local society will benefit from AOS judging with the advent of the newly formed Central Coast Judging Center. Bryce had suggestions for members who want to bring plants

for judging. Prior to judging, a grower should examine the condition of the plant. The pot, leaves and flowers should be clean and bug free. Broken leaves give a poor impression to judges. Cache pots can hide ugly plastic growing pots and present a clean, attractive look. Dead leaves and pseudobulbs should be removed. Bryce noted that leaf shine products are not allowed in judging and flower manipulation is not allowed. Plants should show no sign of disease and flowers should be in perfect condition. Note that experienced judges can tell when a flower has been manipulated.

The judging process begins with screening. Judging teams discuss the plants presented and decide whether to nominate them. Nominated plants are set aside. The next step is point scoring of nominated plants on a scale of 100. The highest award is the First Class Certificate, given to a plant receiving 90 or more points. Point scores of 80 to 89 points receive Awards of Merit. Highly Commended Certificates are given to plants given 75 to 79 points.

In addition, a well grown plant might receive a Certificate of Cultural Merit. These are given to specimen plants in extremely good condition with an unusually large number of flowers. The Award of Distinction is given to a plant showing a noteworthy new direction in breeding. A group of twelve plants from the same grex or cross, one of which received a quality award (FCC, AM or HCC), is eligible for an Award of Quality.

There are, in the AOS judging handbook, 23 more awards possible for a plant or grower. The purpose of all these awards is to encourage and recognize meritorious achievement in all fields of orchid endeavor.

Announcement

❁ OSSB Newsletters

This is my 10th year as OSSB newsletter editor. While I enjoy writing the newsletter, I also believe that it is not necessarily good for the society for a single individual to do the same job for too many years. If any of the members have an interest in becoming secretary and newsletter editor for OSSB in 2009, please let me know at the meetings or via phone or email (805-563-2894 or orchidtrain@cox.net). A new secretary would receive a good deal of help from me if desired, and my meeting notes would be at his or her disposal.

2008 Santa Barbara International Show Report, Continued from March 2008 newsletter

The following is a continuation of ribbon winners at the 2008 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Trophies and ribbon winners in other classes appeared in the March newsletter. This list is of OSSB members who won ribbons for their cymbidiums or their cattleya alliance plants. Congratulations to these and all the exhibitors at the spring show.

- Miniature Cymbidium Potted Plants, pinks 2nd—*Cym (insigne x lianpan)* 'Spring Breeze', Ed and Shirlie Carter
- Mini Cym Potted Plants, greens, 1st—Cym King Arthur 'Chartreuse Knight', Ed and Shirlie Carter
- Novelty Cym Potted Plants, polychrome 1st—Cym Pywacket, Gene Baum
- Standard Species Cym Potted Plants, 2nd—*Cym lowianum* 'James Drysdale', Phil and Angela Watt
- Cym Cut Sprays Green, 2nd — Cym Lucky Shamrock 'Green Glen' Jim Sloniker
- Group of 5 or more same cross blooming seedlings, 3rd — *Laelia anceps* group, SBOE
- Cattleya species, 2nd—*C. loddigesii* 'La Nina', Jim Sloniker
- Cattleya alliance hybrids, green, 1st—*Rsc.* Lone Pine 'Starbek Giant' Frank Methmann
- Cattleya alliance hybrids, red, 1st—*Rsc.* Dream Circle 'Garnet Methmann', Frank Methmann
- Cattleya alliance hybrids, other color, 3rd— Thwaitesara Double Talk 'Butterball', Frank Methmann
- Other Catts, Encyclia species, 1st—*Enc. polybulbon*, Frank Methmann
- Other Catt Alliance, Laelia species, 1st—*Laelia anceps* 'San Bar Pink Triumph' SBOE
- Other Catt Alliance, Laelia species, 3rd—*Laelia anceps* 'San Bar Pink Parade' SBOE
- Other Catt Alliance, Laelia species, 4th—*Laelia moyobambae* 'FM Orchids', Frank Methmann

Note from the Editor

I would like to remind everyone that the judges who participate in AOS judging are all volunteers. They travel to judging centers and shows on their own time and without reimbursement. Let's show the judges some Santa Barbara hospitality in April with, as Paul Gripp put it, "our best dishes and our best plants."

Calendar

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*. See future newsletters for more information, or visit the SBOE website.

Cover Photo

Thanks to Frank Methmann for this photograph of a hybrid paphiopedilum from section Brachypetalum that was shown at the 2008 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. *Paph.* (Sierra Bell x *bellatulum*) is a delightful, small-sized plant, one of a number of paphs shown by members Bryce and Nancy Augustine. You will be seeing more of Frank's photos over the upcoming newsletters, as he sent me a large number from the show, and I haven't organized my own show photos yet. Franks photos can also be viewed on the Cymbidium Society of America website.

March Show Table Results

First place on the March Show Table was a tie between Dick Swain's *L. (anceps alba x rubescens alba oculata)* and Don Brown's *Dockrillia linguiforme*. Second place was a tie between the Carter's miniature cymbidium basket (your editor was not brave enough to dig for a name tag) and Don Brown's *Soph. coccinea*. Third place was also a tie, this between Dick Swain's *Onc. Twinkle* and Don Brown's *L. (anceps x milleri)*. Moderators Paul Gripp and Bryce Augustine commented on all the plants on the table, including Richard Brown's richly colored phalaenopsis and Randall Umland's interesting cross of *Cym. (goeringii x lowianum)*. As a reminder, winners receive 5 points, second place earns 3 points, and third place 2 points. Bringing a plant earns 1 point. The grower with the most points is honored at the end of the year.