

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, July 16, 2008**

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

**Brian and Phena Gerhard  
of  
Down Under Native Orchids**  
will speak about  
**Australian Orchids**

Australian orchids are very popular, and we in Southern California can grow them very well outdoors. The always-popular Gerhards of Down Under Native Orchids (DUNO) will be in Santa Barbara as vendors at the Orchid Fair and have agreed to extend their stay to speak to our society. Come hear about some of the latest orchid news from Australia!

**Setup Help:** President Randall Umland can use some help with setting up tables and chairs before the meeting!

## Calendar

**July 11-13, 2008**

**Santa Barbara Orchid Estate  
International Orchid Fair**

Earl Warren Show Grounds. David Du Puy will be the featured guest, promoting his new edition of *The Genus Cymbidium*. Local nurseries will have open houses, including Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Hatfield Orchids, and Cal-Orchid.

**July 11, 2008**

**Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society  
Special Meeting**

David Du Puy will speak at a special meeting of the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society—7:30 PM at Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center.

*Looking ahead...*

**November 22-23, 2008**

**Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show  
"Galaxies of Orchids"**

Held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Start thinking now about theme ideas for the society display or for your own display.

**Cover photo:** Frank Methmann provided this photo from the 2008 Santa Barbara international Orchid Show. He recorded the name as *Paph. Aisinboine*.

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

## Summary of the June 2008 Meeting

### ❁ Program

Eric and Christina Holenda of Five Cities Orchid Society spoke to the membership about their recent trip to Borneo in March of 2007. The Holendas, whose romance was sparked by an orchid trip, have visited numerous orchid habitats. Their travelogues are always popular with their audiences.

Borneo, located on the equator southwest of the Phillippines, is one of the largest islands in the world. Politically, the upper half is part of the Malaysia, with the remainder belonging to Indonesia. The Holendas flew into the provincial capital, traveled upriver, and flew to the famed Mount Kinabalu. From the air, the loss of native vegetation was obvious in the form of logging roads and palm oil plantations. Additionally, orchids have been stripped bare from the general paths in Mount Kinabalu. The Holendas did note that there are recovery and reintroduction programs, such as one for *Paph. bullenianum*.

At sea level, in the region of the provincial capital, weather is warm and areas of poor soil nutrition feature a number sundews and *Nepenthes* species (pitcher plants). Many of the plants are vining, growing in the ground and then vining up into the trees, with the upper portion of the plant producing different pouches than the lower portion, such as *N. albamarginata*. The compact *N. ampullaria* was found growing in the ground in damp moss. Orchids grew in the same area, including a number of vandaceous plants with miniature flowers.

The Holendas went on a longhouse adventure, reaching the longhouses by longboat. From the boat, they saw rice farmers, crocodiles (which encouraged the boats to travel very quickly) and epiphytes covering dead trees in the gallery forest. Most notable was a grammatophyllum bigger than a VW growing in a tree.

Interestingly, only the older native Ebon people still have tatoos, while the practice has been abandoned by the younger generation. The Holendas were able to photograph an older man with many tatoos, including throat tatoos, considered a sign of "toughness" because

the process is so painful. In addition to hosting foreign visitors in their longhouses, natives gather fruits and nuts from the forest.

In Mulu National Park, on the short walk to Deer Cave, the Holendas saw members of genera *Liparis* and *Cirropetalum*. An unidentified terrestrial orchid displayed a charming flower. And there were of course bugs and animals, such as awlking sticks, lizards and butterflies. Deer Cave itself, the largest single-roomed cavern in the world, is renown for its huge population of roaches.

Downriver at Wind Cave, *Paph. sandermanum* grows on cliffs around the cave opening. Plants are very high above the ground in cracks in the rocks. Eric noted that their inaccessibility probably protected them from collection.

Mount Kinabalu is one big, isolated, granite mountain to 14,000 feet. The valley at its foot has been clear cut and developed. It was not uncommon to see covered fields to protect plants from too much rain.

In the preserve, the Holendas began by looking for rafflesias, including the famed largest flower in the world at 3 feet across. Eric noted that it smelled like a dead elephant.

Numerous orchids were viewable, including a spathoglottis and a number of jewel orchids, terrestrials with beautifully pattered leaves. The Holendas saw several coelogynes growing in trees, including a blooming plant with 3 to 4 foot spikes and tons of flowers. The region is famed for its populations of *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, but the locations of these are closely guarded secrets to prevent the plants from being stripped illegally from the wild. Plants of the striking species can be viewed in the local botanic garden, along with coelogynes, numerous bulbophyllums ("Wonderful," noted Christina.) dendrobiums, and *Phaius tandervillei*. The Holendas commented that *Arundina bambosifolia* is almost a weed in the tropics.

Travelling to the Danum Valley by air, the Holendas could see floating villages along the coast. The cost of

land is so high that poor people will build their homes on stilts or floating on the water.

The Danum Valley is the best place for wildlife in Bornea. It is a pristine forest surrounded by logged areas. In it, the Holendas saw numerous wonderful animals and plants, including a pygmy elephant. Terrestrial orchids and begonias were near the forest flower. In the trees were orangutans, maroon langurs and macaques. On the northwest coast of Borneo, the Holendas spotted proboscis monkeys. These monkeys eat only leaves and can be found in the gallery forests along rivers. On their travels, the Holendas also saw bright green pit vipers (poisonous), mangrove cat snakes (not poisonous), crocodiles, spotted green geckos, eight species of hornbills and a number of terrestrial orchids.

At one hotel, they found a marvelous garden with many orchids grown on tree stumps, including *Phaius tandervillei* and *Vanda dennisoniana*. A *Paraphalaenopsis kinbukensis* sported 5 foot leaves and small brown and yellow flowers. *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* was identifiable by its flattened spike and grew near several other phalaenopsis, including a small pink *violacea* type. The green *Coelogyne pandurata* was in bloom, as were various ginger plants. The garden also included a number of different dendrobiums, a grammatophyllum, and the impressive non-orchid *Hoya imperialis*.

### ❁ June AOS Judging Results

- *Paphiopedilum* Bellevue 'Silky'—HCC of 76 points. Owner: Paphanatics.
- *Paphiopedilum superbiens* var. *curtisii* 'Monsoon Celebrity'—HCC of 77 points. Owner: Bryce Augustine.
- *Oeasterdella pumila* 'Green Pixie'—HCC of 77 points. Owner: Bill Robson (also a returning OSSB member).

Congratulations to these award winners and thank you to the growers who brought plants for judging. Thank you also to the judges for attending the judging session.

### ❁ Editorial Meandering

Ever wonder what your fellow society members are doing in terms of orchid culture? Personally, I love hearing about other folks' methods, even the weird methods. Or perhaps especially the weird methods. And if it sounds like less work, I'm particularly interested in hearing about it.

With this thought in mind, I set forth a set of open questions to the membership. If some of you actually email me with replies, I'll compile them for future issues of the newsletter. (No, don't tell me verbally at the meeting; I'll never remember!)

1. What kind(s) of orchids do you grow?
2. Do you grow outdoors, in a greenhouse, or in your home?
3. How often do you water?
4. Do you use city water on your plants or some other source (e.g., R/O)?
5. Do you have an automated system or do you water by hand?
6. What kind of fertilizer do you use?
7. Describe your potting mix. Do you use bark, coconut, or something else?
8. Is there an unusual aspect to your culture that you find particularly effective?

## More Local Orchid History

Last month, I was delighted to include Shirly Carter's discoveries about the origins of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara. Most of us have no idea how our local societies came about and often that information is lost as founding members leave the society.

This month, I want to comment a little on more local orchid history, and the topic came to mind when I leafed through my latest *Orchids* magazine. Parkside Orchid

Nursery was advertising its 11th Annual Summer Orchid Fest, complete with vendors and lectures, but not an orchid show. Sound familiar? Parkside's event is one of several similar fairs around the country, but the oldest is our own orchid fair, here in Santa Barbara. A quick peek at the website reveals that this is, officially, the "28th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair." Reliable rumor has it that our own Paul Gripp came up with the idea.

## June Show Table Results

First place in the June Show Table voting went to new member Larry Vierheilig for his *Rhyncolaelia digbyana*. Bryce Augustine and Paul Gripp noted that one can often tell how much light a plant will tolerate by the nature of its leaves. *Rhyncolaelia digbyana* has very stiff, upright leaves, which suggests it can take up to full sun. Plants with softer leaves would want less light.

Second place was awarded to new member Laurie Vierheilig's *Onc.* (Golden Viper x Java). Third place was a tie between the following very fine plants: James Merriman's *Enc. cochleata* 'Spyhill' AM/AOS; Jeff

Thompson's *Lc.* Straight Answer 'No Question' HCC/AOS; speaker Eric Holenda's *Stanhopea tigrina* 'Glory of Mexico' AM/AOS; and Heidi Kirkpatrick's *Mexipedium xerophyticum*. Thanks also to Don Brown and Bill Robson for bringing plants.

Paul Gripp noted Don Brown's lovely *Sarco ceciliae*, grown superbly mounted on a rock, obviously preferred by this dry growing species. Bill Robson provided a cymbidium with *Cym.* Little Beauty 'Black Shower'. Jeff Thompson's superior form of *Ansellia africana* grows outside.