

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Cover photo: Laurel and Chris Clayton sent this photo of the frilly-lipped *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* blooming in their collection.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Dr. Peter Tobias
will speak about
Orchid Conservation

We all know that orchid habitats are in trouble around the world, but sometimes it is difficult to know what to do about it. Come hear Dr. Peter Tobias speak to us about the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Tobias is an associate professor of immunology at the Scripps Research Institute, but in the world of orchids, he is a member of the Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN and, more pertinently, Director and President of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. The goal of the OCA is to protect orchids in the wild, and for this they are endorsed by a number of societies and organizations, including our parent organization, the American Orchid Society.

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

September 27-28, 2008

South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale

South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, Garden admission \$7 adults, \$5 seniors, \$2.50 children. 9AM to 5PM

October 17-19, 2008

Southland Orchid Show and Sale:

"Harvest Moon Orchid Festival"

The Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA. 10:30AM to 5PM. Huntington admission weekdays \$15 adults, \$12 seniors; weekends \$20 adults, \$15 seniors.

October 25, 2008

Coastal Valley Orchid Society Orchid Expo & Sale "Orchids for Everyone"

Lompoc Public Library, Grossman Gallery, North Ave and D St., Lompoc, CA. Admission free. AOS judging at 12NOON open to public. Contact Phil Rietz at Philip.Rietz@verizon.net to install a tabletop display or sell at society booth.

November 1-2, 2008

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House

November 22-23, 2008

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

Held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Sign-ups for volunteers begin at the September meeting.

Summary of the August 2008 Meeting

❁ Member Gene Baum announced the return of the Coastal Valley Orchid Society's popular Orchid Expo. This year's event will be held on October 25. CVOS is looking for both display plants and society sales plants. Set up will be from 8:30 to 10AM.

❁ President Randall Umland reported on the August potluck which was enjoyed by a small but enthusiastic crowd. Thanks again to Alice Gripp and the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for hosting. Your editor notes that she came home with several wonderful auction plants.

❁ Member Bill Robson asked about the laelias at the zoo. For our newer members, the society sponsored a "*Laelia anceps* at the Zoo" program several years ago. Plants were donated by society members, who mounted them on a line of trees at the Santa Barbara Zoo. The plants struggled for the first few years until the Zoo gardeners installed irrigation. Member Shirly Carter reported that the plants are doing "great" now.

Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our speaker, Dr. Ken Jacobsen, who spoke to us on *Cymbidium goeringii* and its hybrids. Ken, who is head of the CSA judging program and a probationary AOS judge, was first introduced to orchids by his uncle. Today, he and his wife Amy have between them about 5000 orchids.

Many growers who love cymbidiums are looking for a "solution to three gallon pots." Asian or Oriental hybrids, with *Cym. goeringii* in their background, can provide that solution. The species has very small pseudobulbs and short leaves. A plant in a one gallon pot is considered a specimen! The fragrant flowers appear singly on a spike and are about five cm (two inches). The species is characterized by the large, fibrous bract on the spike that encloses the back of the bud during bud development. Unfortunately, plants are difficult to find in cultivation in the US, and the choice varieties are very expensive.

Cym. goeringii is a terrestrial found in open

coniferous forests, often on lightly shaded slopes of cliffs. It can be found in Japan, Korea, Ryukyu Island, south China, and Taiwan. There is an unverified report from northwest India. It grows at elevations from 300 to 3000 m (that's 10,000 ft!) and can be found blooming through the snow at higher elevations.

The species has numerous varieties and synonyms. *Cym. goeringii* var. *goeringii* is widespread. Var. *longibracteatum* is found in southern China. Var. *serratum* is reported from one location in China. Var. *tortisepalum* is found in southwest China and reported on Taiwan.

In nature, plants grow through leaf litter. Ken showed a photo of a plant about a foot tall growing through leaf litter and bearing four or five flowers. Plants are pollinated by bees but the percentage of pods in the wild seems to be very low.

In cultivation, plants are often grown in tall, slender pots. While the pots often are touted for their aesthetic appeal, Ken noted that the roots are long and unbranching and seem to prefer the tall pots. Plants need a free-draining, open medium. He uses unpacked medium coconut chips. Plants are very hardy and will grow well outside, but he recommends protecting them from winter rain, although Wayne Ferrell observed that the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate does not. The species is sensitive to salts, but its hybrids are more tolerant.

In Asia, particularly Japan and Korea, the species is highly prized. Plants are usually kept small and handed down from generation to generation. Displayed plants often are slipped inside elegant (and expensive!) tall, footed cache pots and a layer of decorative gravel is placed atop the growing mix.

Petals of all forms of the species almost always are porrect (forward over the column). Blooms usually appear in or just barely above the foliage. Ken noted that he was suspicious of unusually tall spikes; Japanese and Korean growers sometimes will place an opaque tube over the spike to encourage it to elongate, then remove the tube before bloom.

Many subspecies and forms of this species have been reported. When categorizing, taxonomists will look for growth habit, number of flowers per spike, and the existence of bracts. Nevertheless, there is a lot of confusion. The current list of synonyms for *Cym. goeringii*, as identified by the Kew Monocot list, is as follows:

<i>Cym. serratum</i>	<i>Cym. tortisepalum</i>
<i>Cym. gracillimum</i>	<i>Cym. tsukengensis</i>
<i>Cym. longibracteatum</i>	<i>Cym. angustatum</i>
<i>Cym. uniflorum</i>	<i>Cym. virescens</i>
<i>Cym. tentyozanense</i>	

Those who grow *Cym. goeringii* loosely categorize forms of the species into three groups. Chinese forms typically have green flowers. Ken showed several different Chinese forms, including a variegated green with red stripe, an alba form, and one with unusually large sepals.

Among the Japanese forms of the species can be found some striking oranges and reds. Ken showed examples with flowers verging on yellow, flowers that were unusually large (three inches), flowers that were clear orange. When visiting the Tokyo Dome show, Ken brought a plant to divide with a friend. They bought it in flower to see what they were getting. And they paid dearly: a two inch plant with six orange flowers was \$250.

Select forms of the species can be extremely expensive in Japan, in part because business conglomerate use them as a sort of currency exchange. *Cym. goeringii*, along with calanthes and neofinetias, are so highly prized in Japan that US judges are not allowed to judge them at the Tokyo Dome show.

Korean types of the species are perhaps the most striking and exciting—and of course the most difficult to obtain. Ken showed examples with splash petals, dark mahogany flowers with red flower stems, variegated green and yellow, green suffused with orange, green with orange tips, orangy with black stripes, peloric white

and red (particularly prized), sepal peloric striped, extra sepals, and very double parts called “lily form.”

Ken noted that the colors forms probably are one plant out of a million and that this species has been line bred for generations. Some of the valued forms, such as the one with five sepals and three column caps, would be considered a bad mutation in the US, although the flowers did emerge identical to each other. Ken also observed that while sepal pelorics (sepals mimicking the lip) often will breed, petal pelorics (petals mimicking the lip) often will not breed peloric progeny.

In Japan and Korea, some plants are grown solely for their vegetation, and spikes are cut as they appear to avoid draining energy from the plant. Variegation is particularly prized; if the new growth is not variegated or is completely yellow (not enough chlorophyll to grow), it is broken off to encourage another, better growth. Other forms include the short leaf form (three to five inch tall plants), the pine leaf form (narrow, half cm leaves), snakeskin form, and so on.

In hybridization, the single flower of *Cym. goeringii* is recessive. Flowers of progeny tend to be medium sized (five to seven cm) and some crosses will produce eight to ten flowers per spike. Colors tend to be crisp and attractive. Some twenty-three hybrids made with “virescens” between 1964 and 1994 probably were really *Cym. goeringii* hybrids. Most were made in Japan, with some made by Mrs. Ireland. More hybrids are making their appearances since 1995, including the “Eastern” line by Mukoyama:

<i>Cym. Eastern Bunny</i>	<i>Cym. Eastern Fire</i>
<i>Cym. Eastern Leaf</i>	<i>Cym. Eastern Memory</i>
<i>Cym. Eastern Message</i>	<i>Cym. Eastern Messenger</i>
<i>Cym. Eastern Morning</i>	<i>Cym. Eastern Sweet</i>
<i>Cym. Eastern Venus</i>	

Other hybrids include:

<i>Cym. Eau de Toilette</i>	<i>Cym. Neverland Fantasy</i>
<i>Cym. Suzuka Pass</i>	<i>Cym. New Step</i>
<i>Cym. Long Pride Splendor</i>	<i>Cym. Ruby Fung Mark</i>
<i>Cym. Mother</i>	<i>Cym. Meeark</i>

Refreshments

First, thanks to everyone who has brought refreshments this year. Beginning with this issue, your editor will attempt to publish the refreshment list to remind folks when they signed up and to note openings in the refreshment list.

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
<i>September</i>	Shirlie Carter	Heidi Kirkpatrick
<i>October</i>	Don Brown	open
<i>November</i>	Frank Methmann	open

OSSB Fall Show

This year's fall show is the weekend before Thanksgiving and early reports suggest the *L. anceps* will be great. To make the show a success, OSSB needs support from its members:

1) **VOLUNTEER**—a great way to meet people, a great way to be involved. Sign ups begin at the September meeting.

2) **ATTEND THE SHOW**—The show is free with admission to the Museum; check out the new bird hall when you visit the show. Tell your friends about our show!

August Show Table Results

First place in the August Show Table voting went to Don Brown for his showy *Disa uniflora* 'Hyun Sook' AM/AOS. Randall Umland's outdoor growing *Aranda* Noorah Alsagoff 'Excelente' won second. This is a hybrid between a vanda and an arachnis. Don Brown tied himself for third place with two plants of *Cym. ensifolium*, caihong and xiaotaohong. Thanks to everyone who brought plants for the show table, including James Merriman, Chris and Laurel Clayton, Colin Purcell, Richard Brown and Ed and Shirlie Carter. In July, members who brought plants for the show table included

James Merriman, Don Brown, Phil and Angela Watt, Chris and Laurel Clayton, Josh Davis and Dick Swain. OSSB encourages everyone to bring a blooming plant to show; the more plants on the show table, the more entertaining and educational it is for everyone.

Apologies from your editor for no AOS judging results again this month. I still have to get together with our judging chair, Bryce Augustine, and compile winners from the last two months. I know from general buzz that a prestigious FCC was awarded in July and that paphs were award recipients in August.