

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Cover photo: Laurel and Chris Clayton sent this photo of *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* blooming in their collection.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Tony Velardi
will speak about
In My Backyard

Come hear this energetic and entertaining orchidist speak about some of the wonderful things a backyard grower can do. Tony Velardi is a retired CSA judge, past head of the CSA Judging Region, and past president of the San Gabriel Branch of the CSA. He has grown and hybridized cymbidiums for "a long time" with the complicity of his wife, Regina, who was the CSA's long time awards treasurer. Tony's hybrids have won Grand Champion (2007—*Cym. Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire'*) and Reserve Champion at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.

AOS Judging:

The American Orchid Society's Central Coast Judging Center meets concurrently with OSSB in the small room at Louise Lowry Davis. To enter a plant in AOS judging, bring it by 6:30PM for registration. Note that AOS judging is separate from our society's monthly show table. Many thanks to the judges who travel to Santa Barbara to participate in monthly judging. And congratulations to our society members and visitors, whose plants have kept a steady flow of awards coming from our new judging center.

Calendar

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.

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 September 2008 Meeting

❁ President Randall Umland reminded everyone of the upcoming OSSB show and passed around volunteer sign-up sheets. Volunteers are needed for ribbon judging, set-up, tear-down, exhibit installation, hospitality and the society sales booth. Members can also help with publicity by passing out the flyers that will be available at the October meeting.

Program

Vice President Carole Thompson introduced our September speaker, Dr. Peter S. Tobias of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Inspired by a 1999 trip to the Atlantic rain forest, Tobias started an orchid conservation group with the San Diego Orchid Society. In 2006, the organization became the Orchid Conservation Alliance, a tax free charitable organization.

There are other orchid conservation organizations. The Orchid Conservation Coalition, for example, encourages a 1% of budget donation to orchid conservation by orchid enthusiasts, orchid societies, and orchid businesses. Orchid Conservation International is an independent, non-profit funding base for the Orchid Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the ICUN (World Conservation Union). This group, based in the United Kingdom, has focused on seed banks and conservation in orchid habitats, especially Madagascar.

Tobias is president of the Orchid Conservation Alliance, a fund raising organization. They raise money to enable effective conservation by people in Brazil and Ecuador. As the organization matures, Tobias hopes to expand to other regions.

The OCA arose from the very successful fund raising efforts of the San Diego Orchid Society, which was raising \$9000 per year from a membership of 400. The next question was how to raise \$50,000—effectively \$2 per every orchid grower in the US. The answer was an independent fund raising organization that would raise money from orchid societies and through orchid tourism.

OCA organizers examined conservation possibilities. Ex situ conservation is logistically difficult; where does one keep 25,000 species? Additionally, the gene pool of those species would be artificially selected and shrinking.

Worst of all, as we all know, plants in cultivation die.

The advantage of a seed bank, such as the one being formed by the Orchid Specialist Group previously mentioned, is that it does not take up as much space as an equal number of plants. But again, the seeds are artificially selected, limiting the gene pool. And seeds lose viability overtime. Seed banks need to be renewed by growing the plants periodically. While cultivated plants can be reintroduced into their historic habitats, these methods of conservation also need constant human supervision.

Instead of trying to save the plants, OCA tries to save the forest that houses the plants. In spending its money wisely, OCA tries to identify regions that would best conserve the local orchid populations, and this is

Websites of interest:

Orchid Conservation Alliance
www.orchidconservationalliance.org

Fundación Ecominga
www.ecominga.com
www.loujost.com

Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation
www.ceiba.org

Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Açú
www.regua.co.uk

David and Izabel Miller at Macae de Cima
www.rockboat.co.uk/riotrust/

Orchid Conservation International
www.orchidconservation.org

IUCN—World Conservation Union
www.iucn.org

The World Conservation Congress is occurring now, October 5-14, in Barcelona, and hosts some 8000 of “the world’s leading decision makers in sustainable development: From governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia.”

Orchid Conservation Coalition
www.orchidconservationcoalition.org

accomplished by examining several criteria:

- ✿ The region should have good biodiversity, especially of orchids.
- ✿ There should be sufficient area for the whole population and its natural pollinator to survive.
- ✿ Local involvement—expertise, oversight and protection—should be available.
- ✿ There should be legal basis for long term preservation. Tobias noted that Ecuador and Brazil have good laws for preservation, but less than stellar enforcement.

In 2006, OCA raised \$10,000 for Fundación Ecominga to establish the Rio Anzu Reserve near Baños, Ecuador—buying land for the reserve for \$100 an acre. Tobias commented that there was “astonishing endemism and biodiversity” in this 100 acre river canyon. The project area is between two large national parks and the Rio Anzu is pristine, with no effects of industry. Tobias noted that this was the home of *Phrag. pearcei* and of many different species of *Teaguaia*. Winds from the Amazon basin bring moisture, which drops as rain and mist on rising ridges.

After Rio Anzu, OCA began working with the Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation, which emphasizes sustainable use. In question is conservation on Ecuador’s dry coast, where habitat loss is notable. OCA and Ceiba are working to target area of high biodiversity, then help local land owners to make a living without damaging the habitat. Land owners who agree to declare their properties as conservation easements receive substantial tax relief. In one example, the owning family developed the reserve as an educational and teaching area, and make their living from tours for school children. In addition to orchids like *Dimoranda rimbachia*, *Oncidium anguloa*, and various sobralias and odontoglossums, the preserve protects endemic species of reptiles, snakes, birds, etc.

Ceiba targets areas have not been degraded and could be conserved. A possible method for raising money to purchase land between existing reserves could be the selling of carbon credits to industry. Tobias noted that OCA is hoping the new Carlsbad desalination plant might buy carbon credits if Ceiba can be properly certified.

In Brazil, OCA is examining the Atlantic rainforest, of which only 5% to 7% remains. This region of mountains has a higher biodiversity of orchids than the flat Amazon. In this Atlantic rainforest, one finds *Maxillaria picta*, plus *Zygopetalum*, *Gomesa*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Pleurothallis*, and *Sophronitis coccinea*. Tobias spoke in particular of several Brazilian landowners who are taking steps to safeguard their properties and to use them for conservation tourism.

AOS Judging Results

June

Paph. superbiens v. curtisii ‘Moonsoon Celebrity’ 77 pt HCC (Bryce Augustine) One flower on one inflorescence; dorsal sepal white overlaid with green centrally to near distal edge and striped with maroon and darker green fading to white picotee; synsepal green with maroon stripes, petals white overlaid with green centrally, fading distally to even maroon striping on margins; darkly hirsute burgundy pouch; staminode green with darker green overlay; substance firm; texture matte.

Paph. Bellevue ‘Silky’ (*bellatulum* x *Via Flora Vista*) 76 pt HCC (Paphanatics) Two flowers on one 14 cm inflorescence; flowers paper white; dorsal white with minute burgundy pepper spotting proximally; petals covered with minute pepper burgundy spotting; pouch white, inner surface covered with burgundy spotting; substance medium; texture glossy.

Osterdelia pumila ‘Summer Green’ 77 pt HCC (Bill Robson) Fifty flowers and one bud on three erect inflorescences; flowers yellow-green; lip white, spreading and bifurcated, slightly dentate distally with magenta V-shaped spot on midlobe, yellow throat; substance firm; texture matte.

July

Neofinetia falcata ‘Tokyo Jade’ 79 pt HCC (Don Brown) Six flowers and five buds on two inflorescences; sepals and petals pale green; lip white, pale green on proximal end of midlobe; column white; nectary white, pale green on distal third. Flowers evenly distributed on the inflorescence. Substance firm; texture diamond dusted. Jasmine-like fragrance.

Cymbidium Kuranda ‘Arthur Kuranda’ (*madidum* x *suave*) 80 pt CCM (SBOE) Approximately 1,400 flowers on thirty-nine gracefully arched pendant inflorescences nearly uniformly displayed around circumference of a 110 cm diameter. Virtually immaculate plants, grown in a 20 cm pot; sepals and petals olive green on front of flower, reddish brown with yellow-green margins on reverse; lip striking with magenta basally and bright yellow lip; anther cap yellow; substance hard; texture velvety.

Cattleya leopoldii v. purpurea ‘San Bar Giant’ 90 pt FCC (SBOE) Sixteen flowers on one upright inflorescence; petals deep rust brown, liberally covered with blackish-brown spots; lip deep magenta, midlobe flat, column white suffused with magenta. Substance extremely heavy; texture waxy. Larger flowers than previous awards.

Refreshments

Thanks to Shirly Carter for delightful snacks and Heidi Kirkpatrick for drinks in September. If you have not brought refreshments for a while, consider signing up for drinks or food.

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
<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 continue at the October 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!

September Show Table and Judging Results

There were a number of ties in voting in September, which your editor interprets as a very fine show table that made decisions difficult for the voters! First place in the September Show Table voting went to Ed and Shirly Carter's *Blc.* Crispin Rosales 'Costa Mesa'. Second place was a three-way tie between *Epi. embreei* (Bill Robson), *Onc.* (Golden Viper x Jam) (Larry and Laurie Vierheilg), and *C. bowringiana coerulea* 'Blue Angel' AM/AOS (Larry and Laurie Vierheilg). Third place was a tie between Dick Swain's *Blc.* Hawaiian Satisfaction and Don Brown's *C. loddegesii* 'Streeter's Choice'. Thanks

also to Laurel & Chris Clayton, Robert Weltz and Jeff Thompson for bringing plants.

Details are not available yet for August and September AOS judging. However, your editor notes that for September AOS judging, congratulations are in order to Robert Weltz, George Hatfield and Don Brown on receiving Awards of Merit for their plants. Results for June and July are printed on page three of this newsletter. Congratulations to July and June awardees Bryce Augustine, Don Brown, Paphanatics (Norito Hasegawa), Bill Robson, and SBOE. Note that SBOE received a coveted FCC in July!