

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Cover photo: Thanks to Frank Methmann for this photo of *C. jenmanii* from the OSSB Fall Show.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM
Our own **Phil Watt**
will speak about
Growing Orchids in Goleta

Want to learn about what other society members are doing for successful growing in our area? Come hear our own Phil Watt, who, with his wife Angela, has installed award winning displays at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Phil is past president of our society, current president of the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society, current vice president of the Cymbidium Society of America, and studying in the AOS judging program. Come hear Phil tells us how he and Angela grow their wonderful plants.

Don't forget to arrive early and help set up for the meeting.

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.

Calendar—It's Show Season!

February 6-8, 2009

Malihini Orchid Society Show

Cupertino Square Shopping Center. www.malihini.org

February 7-8, 2009

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Bldg, 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa.

February 20-22, 2009

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show

Westgate Mall, San Jose. www.santaclaravalleyorchidsociety.org

February 21-22, 2009

Gardena Cymbidium Club Show

Nakaoka Memorial Center, Gardena.

March 6-8, 2009

San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exposition: "Green with Envy"

Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco.
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.

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OSSB Officers for 2009:
President - Randall Umland
Treasurer - PJ Sanderson

Vice President - Carol Rogers
Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick

Visit the OSSB Web Site!

www.orchidsb.net

A Review of AOS Judging

by Bryce Augustine

What we started in April of last year to great fanfare has turned happily into a steady stream of American Orchid Society (AOS) awards for our membership, and a few visitors to Santa Barbara, too. Remember that great kickoff party? I thought it was splendid. Hectic, too! Now, nine months later, I am still very pleased with the tremendous enthusiasm for judging and the level of participation by our local orchid enthusiasts.

If you were present during the meeting almost two years ago, during which the membership voted in favor of bringing AOS judging to Santa Barbara, you will remember there was heated debate about the role Paul Gripp and I would play in the meetings talking about the plants brought in for exhibition. The concern was whether Paul and I as AOS judges would be able to continue this role. Or would we be stuck in the other room doing the judging? Someone asked if maybe we could keep Paul and get rid of me!

Paul and I agreed to continue talking about the plants, and the rest is history. Now, the main meeting occurs in the main room with AOS judging in the "back room."

After each judging session, the awarded plants are brought out, if they are available, to announce them to the greater meeting. This is very exciting for both me and the exhibitors. I get to talk about why a plant was awarded and the exhibitor gets the deserved accolades from their fellow members.

At the top of the list are the merit awards. These awards recognize the quality of the bloom compared with all others of the same type registered by the American Orchid Society (AOS). Such awards are highly sought after and rightly so as a plant with an AOS merit award is immediately more valuable and stands out as the very best of a species or hybrid. The awards are given based upon a point scale named here in ascending order of value: Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) 75 to 79 points; Award of Merit (AM) 80 to 89 points; and First Class Certificate (FCC) 90 to 100 points.

There are two less well known awards which are: Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM), and Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR). The CHM is given to a well grown and well flowered species or natural hybrid with outstanding esthetic appeal that contributes to the horticultural aspects of orchidology. The CBR is awarded to a cultivar of a species or natural hybrid deemed worthy of recognition for rarity, novelty and educational value.

As an example, Bill Robson brought in an unusual plant in December, *Dendrobium agoyanense*, that the judges felt worthy of awarding with a CBR. It had over 190 flowers! Unfortunately, while I was talking about the other awarded plants that evening, Bill's plant was being photographed and wasn't ready to discuss until the meeting was nearly over. Good job, Bill, for another excellent plant!

Special recognition must go to Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for bringing in a continual stream of specimen plants that the judges have been awarding with two of the AOS awards for cultural excellence: Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) 80 to 89 points and Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) 90 to 100 points. These awards are meant to recognize an exhibitor for growing a plant not only to specimen size, but to bring it to blooming with an unusually large number of flowers.

The awards I've discussed above are really just the beginning. There are many other interesting AOS awards that we can strive for, and I'll write about some more next time. To win any of them, all it takes is great growing of great orchids!

Bryce Augustine is judging chair of our judging center, the Central Coast Supplemental Judging Region ... and your editor hopes she got the name correct on that one!

AOS Judging Results

November 2008-OSSB Meeting

Laelia pumila 'Sanbar Neo Plus Ultra' 77 pt HCC (SBOE) One flower on one inflorescence; sepals and petals uniformly lavender; lip dark lavender, bright purple distally, orange in throat; substance medium; texture crystalline.

Phalaenopsis Charlotte Houghteling 'Gisele Beurnier' (Suziana Wijanto x Nancy Mason) 76 pt HCC (S. Robert Weltz., Jr.) Two flowers on one inflorescence and one immature inflorescence; flowers greenish yellow, white centrally with concentric fuchsia barring; lip cream with fuchsia stippling; substance firm; texture matte.

November 2008-OSSB Fall Show

Laelia anceps 'Grande' 77 pt HCC (Cal-Orchid) Ten flowers and three buds on four inflorescence; sepals and petals uniformly saturated dark lavender; lip dark purple distally with pronounced yellow keels and purple striations in throat; substance medium; texture crystalline.

Scaphosepalum peruvianum 'Sycamore Canyon' CBR, provisional (Bill Robson) Nine flowers and nine buds, non-resupinate on six inflorescence; fused pale green magenta spotted ventral sepals with caudae are thickened on lower half; petals minute; fused lateral sepals are pale green spotted magenta; lip translucent striped finely magenta; substance firm; texture matte.

Laeliocattleya Fiesta Days 'Solo Flight' (*Laelia anceps* x *Lc. Chiapas*) 81 pt AM (Cal-Orchid) Four very flat flowers on one 40 cm inflorescence; sepals light lavender with darker lavender venation; petals lavender splashed darker lavender at distal edge, white proximally; lip rose purple, margins undulated; throat yellow veined purple; column white; substance firm; texture matte.

December 2008-OSSB Meeting

Phragmipedium besseae 'Red Circle' 78 pt HCC (Bryce Augustine) One flower and two buds on one inflorescence; flowers orange-red; pouch orange-red with darker orange-red stripes, rim of pouch edged light yellow; substance firm; texture sparkling.

Paphiopedilum Lefty Kei 'Tiger Eye' (William Ambler x *sanderianum*) 79 pt HCC (Bryce Augustine) Three flowers on one 36cm inflorescence; flowers greenish yellow; dorsal and synsepal overlaid with burgundy-brown stripes, petals greenish yellow with burgundy-brown spotting on proximal third becoming burgundy-brown distally; pouch burgundy-brown with yellow-green tip; substance firm; texture matte.

Cymbidium Red Cross 'Fiery Orb' (Red Beauty x Via Ambarino) 78 pt HCC (Santa Barbara Orchid Estate) Eight flowers on one inflorescence; sepals and petals yellow infused with rust striations with yellow picotee; lip yellow with dark red spots; column yellow, red distally, anther cap cream; substance firm; texture matte.

Epidendrum agoyanense 'Sycamore Creek' CBR (Bill Robson)

One hundred ninety flowers and 11 buds on 11 inflorescences on a 118 cm tall reed stem type plant; sepals and petals light green; lip white with light green blush centrally on distal edge; column white; substance firm; texture matte.

Your editor would like to note that these AOS award results are for information only. The final, "official" wording that appears in *Awards Quarterly* may differ slightly from what appears in this preliminary report. The judging center provides the information as a courtesy for our newsletter. Your editor admits that she has, once or twice, miscopied information from the judging center. Readers should feel free to contact me if they believe there is an error.

- Heidi Kirkpatrick, 805-563-2894, orchidtrain@cox.net

Calendar continued ...

March 7-8, 2009

South Bay Orchid Society Show

Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr.,
Torrance. www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com

March 13-15, 2009

San Diego County Orchid Society Show "Around the World with Orchids"

Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego
www.sdorchids.com

March 14-15, 2009

Central California Orchid Society Show

Sierra Vista Mall, 1050 Shaw Ave., Clovis, CA

March 20-22, 2009

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show "Orchid Escape"

Earl Warren Showgrounds. www.sborchidshow.org.
Installation will be the same day as our March meeting; more info at upcoming meetings and newsletters.

March 21, 2009

34th Annual Cymbidium Congress

Held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara show. Lectures, banquet, auction, etc. Get a brochure at the meeting or go to www.cymbidium.org

Member News

❧ The society sends best wishes to Ed Carter, who is ill. Ed and Shirlie Carter are longtime members of the society. We hope to see them both at upcoming meetings.

❧ Happy journey to Jeff Thompson's daughter Mai-Reed, whom many of us have watched growing up. Mai-Reed is attending the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. as part of the Youth Leadership Program.

❧ Missing a few members at meetings? Several of our

members have been clerking at monthly AOS judging, including Josh Davis, Frank Methmann, Larry Vierheilg, and Phil and Angela Watt.

Refreshments—Many thanks to everyone who brought treats in 2008! Your editor blushes to admit she has no idea who signed up for refreshments in January. Please call me if you signed up. The sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting. If you haven't brought snacks or drinks in a while, considering signing up in 2009.

2008 Show Table Results

At almost every meeting, the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara has a show table, with meeting attendees voting for their favorite plant. Exhibitors label their plants with a provided number (and record "their numbers" for the month on the list). The results are tabulated and first, second and third place plants are recognized. Every first place earns 5 points, with second place earning 3 points and third place 2 points. Anyone who brings a plant to show at a meeting earns one point.

At the end of the year, the points are tabulated. And the 2008 winners are:

- 1) Don Brown
- 2) Ed and Shirlie Carter
- 3) James Merriman

Congratulations to these show table winners!

The contest starts again in 2009 with our January show table, so bring your blooming plants to show. And remember that a well populated show table is educational to everyone!