

# Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,  
August 19, 2009**

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

**Dexter Friede  
of Grow More, Inc.**  
will speak about  
**The Importance of  
Micronutrients for Orchids**



Come hear about a subject near and dear to all of our hearts—fertilizing our orchids. As sales administrator with Grow More, Inc., Dexter Friede can tell us about what sorts of fertilizers are appropriate for orchids. Grow More, Inc. has over 100 stores in the US and 35 in other countries. Look for fertilizer samples on the raffle table!

**Community Service Speaker: Doug Hagensen** of **Backyard Harvest** will also give a short overview of the project that supplies the Unity Shoppe with local fruits and vegetables from people who have more than they can use.

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

**AOS Judging:** Bring your plant by 6:30 PM to register it for AOS judging.

**Sunday, August 16, 2009, 3:30 PM**

## Annual OSSB Picnic

Held at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Enjoy our annual summer social. And bring a plant to donate to the auction! More details inside...

*Looking ahead...*

**November 28-29, 2009**

## Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show "Orchids in Paradise"

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

## Summary of the July 2009 Meeting

### ❁ Announcements

➤ The July meeting was held on a special day in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society and the SBOE international Orchid Fair. OSSB thanks Alice Gripp and Gene Baum for their work in organizing the speaker, Lou Menezes, guest author at the Fair.

➤ OSSB and SBCS welcomed a large crowd including a number of distinguished visitors. Hybridizing great Ernest Hetherington and his daughter Pamela were in attendance, as were hybridizing great Frank Fordyce and his wife Marge. Also visiting were CSA president Jeff Trimble, CSA judging chair Ken Jacobsen and his wife Amy (who has spoken to OSSB before), Loren and Nancy Batchman, and Joan Bailey.

### ❁ Program

Paul Gripp introduced the July speaker, Lou Menezes, expert on cattleyas and laelias of Brazil. Before he yielded the floor to her, he asked various orchid members when they first started growing orchids. Lou Menezes started when she was 15. Jeff Bradley had his first orchid at age five. Bryce Augustine started in 1978. Ernest Hetherington started in 1936 at Armacost and Royston where he was paid \$12 a week. His first raise brought him to \$15 a week!

Lou Menezes is a Forestry Engineer and Environmental Analyst for Brazil's National Orchid Research Center. She has written numerous articles and several books on Brazilian orchids, the book featured at the Fair being on *Laelia purpurata*. She spoke to the membership on conservation of habitats in Brazil.

Lou Menezes began with a discussion of the devastation of habitats in Brazil by soybean and sugar cane farming, cattle ranching, and dam building. Many orchids can be found in the "cerrado" or tropical savannah and these plants are under pressure from habitat loss as grassy areas are burned to allow the growing of sugar cane. The push for ethanol has made sugar cane and corn desirable crops, even to the point of supplanting food crops; new land for these crops is carved by slash and burn from the cerrado. Plants are also vulnerable to

illegal collecting.

Brazil's cerrado is a tropical savannah with trees and rocky outcroppings. The climate in this central plateau region of Brazil is dry, but there are rivers, lakes, and even marshes. Particularly notable are the palms, which only grow near moisture and therefore are visible indicators of a moisture source nearby.

Lou Menezes showed a number of orchids and their natural habitats. These included the following:

*Cyrtopodium* species—many are found growing on rocks, which can get very very hot in the summer. Others prefer marshy areas. Plants often will survive fires. A particular type of parrot is known for building nests in roots of the epiphytic *Cyrtopodium saintlegerianum*, which grows on palms. *Cyrtopodium wiesneri* grows on rocks near the city of Brasilia. *Cyrtopodium paludicola* is yellow with or without red-brown spots. *Cyrtopodium brandonianum* has a pink lip and red-brown markings on petals and sepals.

*Habenaria*—this terrestrial genus needs to be studied, as there are many species found on the central plateau.

*Catasetum fimbriatum*—this species forms large clumps on trees and palm trees. Lou Menezes reported that everyone wanted catasetums four or five years ago. The genus was strongly collected and many disappeared in the wild.

*Phragmipedium vitatum*—this species is found in grassy marshes. Its habitat is prone to fire, but burned plants will regrow after the first rains. Brazilians don't care about these flowers, so the species is not collected, but its habitat is endangered by the transformation of marshy areas to rice paddies.

*Oncidium* species—Some species grow in marshy areas. Others are terrestrial. One species is brown during the dry season and turns green when the rains come; it bears a white and yellow flower and its leaves grow down like those of

*Brassavola nodosa*. *Oncidium maculata* is found in northern Brazil to Argentina.

*Cattleya walkeriana*—this species has a large number of color forms and grows in a broad variety of microclimates. Lou Menezes showed one example growing on a boulder near cyrtopodiums and cacti. Another habitat example was on rocks again, but near a waterfall and rivers in a shady forest. Other plants could be found on tree trunks.

*Cattleya nobilior*—this species grows as an epiphyte. The *coerulea* form often grows about waist high, unfortunately easy to pick. Lou Menezes originally described the subspecies *mesquite* as a natural hybrid with *Cattleya walkeriana principis*. Since then, she has discovered another population of the subspecies that is obviously not a natural hybrid. She also showed plants bearing seed capsules.

*Cattleya bicolor*—this beautiful, dark flowered species is also an inhabitant of the central plateau of Brazil.

*Epidendrum* and *Encyclia*—members of these genera are found in central Brazil in the cerrado, often growing on boulders. *Encyclia chapadensis* is an example with brownish flowers and a fuchsia lip that grows on boulders. Often, epidendrums grow on boulders near poisonous snakes. Some of the encyclias carried seed capsules.

*Cyanaeorchis*—Two species were shown that grow terrestrially on grassy areas. *Cyanaeorchis arundiae* is short with many flowers. The similar *Cyanaeorchis major* can be distinguished from it for carrying only one flower.

A number of lesser known terrestrial orchids can be found in the grasses of the savannah, including lovely members of the genera *Epistephium* and *Cleistes* with flowers somewhat resembling those of sobralias. *Eulophia* can be found on the central plateau amongst grasses, whereas *Galeandra* species grow terrestrially

or epiphytically. *Trichonidium* is found in forested areas. Lou Menezes also showed *Liparis vexilifera* and *Maxillaria choleri*.

*Cattleya walkeriana* has a number of cultivated forms. Lou Menezes showed several that grow at her nursery, including the famous “Hubra” with a hint of lemon yellow in the lip. *Coerulea* forms ranged from very dark to the very light *coerulensis*. There are also semi alba forms, some with very strikingly fuchsia lips. The vinicolor form is a soft purple-red, like rose wine. Lou Menezes has seen forms with picotee but wonders if they are virused.

Since she lives in Brasilia in the central plateau, Lou Menezes has been able to do the research to author her books. She feels she is losing the fight against deforestation, so the books are her way of at least in some manner conserving the orchids she loves.

## ❁ July AOS Judging Results

Since the date of our meeting was moved to Friday, it was not held in conjunction with AOS judging. As a result, we missed presentation of two of the most exciting awards that the AOS gives. Don Brown received a First Class Certificate and a Certificate of Cultural Excellence for his *Mystacidium capense*. Your editor apologizes for not having information on the rest of the judging. Congratulations to Don and to anyone else who received an AOS award in July (feel free to email me and let me know if you received an award!).

## ❁ Refreshments

	Food	Drinks
August	Betty Watt	Joyce Tolle
September	Janet and Paul Gripp	
October	Wayne Ferrell	Jeff Thompson
November	Don Brown	

## **Orchid Website**

Have you ever wondered how I manage to spell all those tongue-twisting orchid names? Do I have extraordinarily good Latin spelling?

Well, not really. I have instead Jay Pfahl's extraordinary species website at [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com). As of August 10, 2009, this site featured information on 10,335 orchid species in 758 genera. There are photographs of many of the orchids, along with basic habitat information. There is a glossary with

all those odd orchid words in it, like "aculeiform" (resembling a pickle).

When I take notes, as for Lou Menezes's wonderful talk on Brazilian orchids, I try to get close enough with the name that I can find it on Jay Pfahl's website. Sometimes, I can't figure out what the speaker said. Those plants don't make it into the newsletter. For the rest...well, it is just a trick of finding where to look it up!

## **OSSB Annual Picnic! Sunday, August 16, 2009 3:30 PM Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**

Come join OSSB and the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for our summer orchid social, an afternoon of good food, good orchids, and good company. Our summer picnic will be at 3:30PM at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate (thank you, Alice Gripp).

Our summer social is a potluck. Bring enough to

share with six to eight others.

A-I: main course

J-Q: salad or side dish

R-Z: dessert

There also will be a silent auction of donated plants. Bring a plant or plants and specify if the proceeds go to OSSB or SBCS.

There are just a few picnic tables, so plan to sit on the ground unless you bring folding tables and chairs or a picnic blanket. Be sure to bring your own drinks, plates and utensils.