

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
October 21, 2009**

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Our own Sandy Svoboda
will speak about
AOS Judging

Our relatively new Central Coast Supplemental Judging Center, part of the American Orchid Society judging system, meets in the other room during our monthly meetings. Come hear our own Sandy Svoboda discuss what really happens during AOS judging and what it means to get your plant judged. Sandy Svoboda is an AOS and CSA judge, past Trustee of the AOS, and frequent contributor to the Q&A in *Orchids*—providing answers, of course! Sandy has also been president and Congress chair for the Cymbidium Society of America and show manager for the Santa Barbara International Orchid Society. Currently, Sandy is editor-in-chief for the *Orchid Digest*.

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. Questions? Ask Chair Bryce Augustine.

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



Photo: Don Brown received an Award of Merit of 81 points at the September AOS judging for this striking flower of *Paph. Magic Lantern 'Cherri'*, which is a cross of the species *Paph. micranthum* and *Paph. delenatii*. This plant is notable for its particularly dark color and fine shape.

FALL SHOW NEWS

November 28-29, 2009

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

Show installation Friday Nov 28, 1-5PM.

This is **your show**. Much of the money to support our fine speakers comes from sales at the fall show. But for the show to be a success, you need to volunteer and attend the show! The society will need help with set-up, tear-down, hospitality, and plant sales. Be sure to sign up!!

Publicity: The show is only successful if people come to it. Help advertise our show! Flyers will be available at the October meeting. Put them up at work, at the gym, where you shop, in your neighborhood! Email recipients will receive a color email flyer; send it to your friends!

Summary of the September 2009 Meeting

❁ Announcements

➤ *Congratulations* to newlyweds Todd and Wendy Wenderski, who just returned from their honeymoon. Todd and Wendy are our new refreshment chairs, replacing Phil and Angela Watt. Thanks, Phil and Angela, for your service!

➤ President Randall Umland announced that it was time to appoint a nominating committee to select 2010 officers. The recommendations of the nominating committee will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting.

➤ Treasurer PJ Sanderson is looking for help with publicity of the OSSB Fall Show. Please help our society and volunteer!

❁ Program

Carol Rogers introduced the September speaker, Chris Ehrler, past president of the Five Cities Orchid Society. Chris spoke to us about his recent trip to the big island of Hawaii and several of the growers there, both commercial and hobby.

Chris was introduced to orchids by his mother. As he became interested in orchids, he was told that only cymbidiums were easy to grow. He has since proved this advice wrong; he grows a number of genera very successfully in a cool greenhouse, including members of the Pleurothallid Alliance. But he also still grows some of his mother's plants.

Chris's talk about his visit to Hawaii began with a piece of good advice; if you are traveling, check for local orchid societies and find out about meetings. It is great fun to attend meetings in other parts of the country.

With this in mind, Chris contacted the local orchid society on a recent trip to the Kona (dry) side of Hawaii. There was no meeting while he was on the island, but the society contact instead arranged for him to visit several different local growers. Chris commented that the hobby growers were so hospitable that he wound up eating his way through the visits.

They began early and were provided with breakfast at the first grower's home. Here orchids were growing exposed to the temperatures. No greenhouse was needed, but the hot tropical sun made shade cloth useful. Perhaps

just as notable were the efforts to protect the orchids from the rain. This grower had plants under the eaves of the roof and had plastic on the shadehouse to keep the rain off. Plants were grown on wood benches with wire tops. Chris showed slides of a number of orchids in bloom, including *Psychopsis papilio*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, and a female catasetum flower.

Here, the membership discussed catasetums briefly. This genus produces either male or female flowers. Male flowers are showier and shoot pollen like a projectile at hapless pollinators. Female flowers have a helmet shaped lip and tend to be produced by particularly strong plants in high light.

The second grower was at an elevation of about 2000 feet. The orchids in this collection were mostly pleurothallids grown in pots with no medium. Pots were wired to a metal stand under a big tree. These were watered once a day. Among them, Chris noted some warm growing masdevallias looking very happy. He noted that the temperature at the ocean was about 85°, but this growing area, due to its elevation, was at about 75° Fahrenheit.

A second growing structure was exposed to more sun. This one had shade cloth atop it to protect from the sun. The shade cloth was atop waterproof lids to protect the plants from too much rain.

Most plants at the third house were growing in the open, though there was a shadehouse containing some orchids. Here, renantheras and antelope-type dendrobiums bloomed with full sun for part of the day. This house was at 1500-2000 feet elevation, with a little breeze and nice humidity.

A wall built of lava rock was home to a number of vandas, including *Vanda tricolor var. suaves*, which tolerates a broad range of temperatures. Plants on the wall grew in full sun. They were not in baskets or pots, but were growing directly on the lava.

The grower had erected a metal rail for a collection of hanging stanhopeas. These were grown in homemade baskets of wire or milk crate. The plants were spiking vigorously when Chris visited. Chris also saw dendrobiums growing in the root ball of a fallen tree.

Among the non-orchids were anthuriums, known to most of us as shade-loving houseplants but here growing

vigorously on the lava rock wall, mostly in full sun. There was an astonishing variety in this collection. The grower also harvested macadamia nuts and sold them to the co-op processing plant. Chris noted that raw nuts are bitter, but roasting improves flavor. Some growers also have coffee plants, the product of which is sold to co-op processing plants.

At the fifth home, Chris saw cattleya alliance types growing along the driveway along with terete leaved (warm growing) vandas. The shadehouse here had a frame of metal pipe. The metal benches were also of pipe with wire screening. Plants sat in nursery flats for stability.

On the Hilo side, Chris visited Orchid Works, a commercial grower specializing in oncidium alliance seedlings. Seed pods are hand carried to Thailand, and from these, the nursery obtains 2500 flasks a month. Chris showed an impressive slide of a large array of flasks, like glass whiskey bottles lying on their sides. The nursery breeds on with fast growers and ships product

throughout the world to such nurseries as Matsui.

The nursery uses a dilute solution of hydrogen peroxide to wash off agar from deflasked seedlings. Seedlings are graded by size and placed in cell packs, with a block of florist's Oasis foam pinning the seedling against the side of the cell. Each cell is a 1.5 inch hole about 2 inches deep, but despite this tiny space, the seedlings grow vigorously and some even bloom.

The nursery can have up to three million seedlings on rolling benches in their growing house. There is an overhead spray system on a track with an injector for fertilizer. Each sprayer along the line can deliver water through one of three heads, allowing the nursery to control the pattern and intensity of the spray.

❁ **Refreshments**

Thanks to Janet and Paul Gripp, Dick Swain, and Jeff Thompson for September's treats!

	Food	Drinks
October	Wayne Ferrell	Jeff Thompson
November	Don Brown	



**The Orchid Society
of
Santa Barbara
presents**

**Orchids in
Paradise**

Show and Sale

November 28, 2009, 10 AM to 5 PM

November 29, 2009, 10 AM to 3 PM

at the

**Santa Barbara Museum
of Natural History**

**Info:
randumland@cox.net or 805-962-6004**

➤ **Sad News**—Long time member George Brown passed away recently. Many members have George and Clara's plants in their collections, obtained from the society sales booth at shows. The OSSB officers and board express their condolences to Clara Brown.

➤ **Sales at the Fall Show**—The society booth at the fall show will need sale plants from society members. This is a great opportunity to make room for new purchases, while making a little money and supporting your society. 25% of

the sales price of the plant goes to the society. Members are also needed to help PJ with sales during the show.

➤ **Displays at the Fall Show**—Have a plant that will be in bloom for the fall show? Consider placing it in the society's display. Bring your plant at the beginning of set-up (1 pm, Friday, November 27) and be sure your name is on the pot so your plant can find its way back to you. If you have many plants that will be in bloom for the fall show, consider installing your own tabletop display.

Ribbon Judging Results

September had a particularly attractive show table, which meant that voting members couldn't come to a consensus. Tied for first were: Colin Purcell's unlabeled purple cattleya hybrid, Larry Vierheilig's *Slc.* (Tangerine Imp × Bright Angel), Don Brown's purple-tipped *Neofinetia falcata* and *Epi.* John Brunton (*mooreana* × *tampense*).

Second place was similarly populated by ties. Winning plants were: Bill Robson's *Encyclia radiata*, *Holcoglossum kimballianum* and *Epi. veroscriptum*; Dick Swain's *Blc.* Hawaiian Satisfaction; Frank Methmann's

Brassavola Jimney Cricket; Don Brown's variegated *Neofinetia falcata*; Jeff Thompson's *Bulbo.* (Jersey × ? — can't read my notes); and Todd Wenderski's astonishingly blue *Dendrobium helwigianum*. Thanks to these growers and to Laurel & Chris Clayton and Bryce Augustine for bringing in a wonderful show table.

Congratulations also to the AOS awardees from September, including Don Brown's lovely paph on the front page of this newsletter.