

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
November 18, 2009**

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Dan Asbell of Asbell's Orchids
will speak about
Cool Growing Orchids

Want to learn more about plants that will grow outdoors here in Santa Barbara? Bob Asbell is a long-time cymbidium grower known for some of his red breeding. Come hear his son, Dan, speak about some of the delightful orchids growing outside with their cymbidiums. Dan says their zygos are going wild! Asbell's Orchids will supply the plant table, so your raffle ticket will get you a chance to win one of their outdoor-growing orchids.

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. If you have questions, contact judging chair Bryce Augustine.

Erratum: Your editor seems to have omitted credit for last month's very beautiful photo of *Paph.* Magic Lantern 'Cherri', which was taken by Larry Vierheilg. Apologies, Larry, and thanks for a lovely photograph.

OSSB Officers for 2009:

President - Randall Umland

Vice President - Carol Rogers

Treasurer - PJ Sanderson

Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick

Visit the OSSB Web Site!

www.orchidsb.net



Photo: Yes, it's an orchid—and a big, smelly one, too. A closeup of *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*.

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: It's not too late to help advertise our show! Email your friends! Put a flyer up at work, at the gym, where you shop, in your neighborhood! Email recipients will receive a another color email flyer.

Summary of the October 2009 Meeting

❁ Fall Show Announcements

➤ **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. Sellers will need to make a list of their plants and to obtain tags from PJ. These tags are the society's record of the sale of the plant; they need to contain the seller's initials, the price of the plant, and the number of the plant on the seller's list. Members are also needed to help PJ with sales during the show. And don't forget to spend money at the society's booth. Those in the know realize that society sales booths are full of unusual, hard-to-find goodies.

➤ **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. This year's theme is "Orchids in Paradise."

❁ Program

Carol Rogers introduced the October speaker, our own Sandra Svoboda, who got into orchids by helping her husband, Al, with his paphs. Twenty years ago, they added a second greenhouse. Sandy was hooked. Since then, she has been president of OSSB, SBCS, and CSA. She is an AOS and CSA judge and treasurer of the AOS Pacific South Judging Region. She is chair of the AOS website committee and editor of the esteemed *Orchid Digest*.

Before speaking about her travels, she noted that it behooves all of us to support our orchid societies, local and national—American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America, and Orchid Digest Corporation. Especially in these troubled times, it is important to support our organizations because our orchid lives would be poorer if there were fewer orchid organizations to share in our passion. Locally, it is important to volunteer,

and Sandy noted that if everyone pitches in, it can be a lot of fun.

Sandy Svoboda titled her talk "Treasures of the Thunder Dragon: Bhutan." Bhutan is a Himalayan mountain kingdom bordering India and the former Tibet. This land of snow capped mountains measures some 18,146 square miles, with a population of 691,141. Bhutan is in the top 10% for species diversity. And this diversity is well protected. By law, 60% of the country must remain forested. 35% of the country is under the protection of conservation management, with biological corridors linking protected conserves.

Politically, the country is a constitutional monarchy. Though the King was beloved and considered a wise ruler, and though he believed his son would also be a wise ruler, since he could not guarantee into the future, he made a prime minister and a parliament. Though by some measures the country is not a wealthy one, they measure success by the "Gross National Happiness."

The population is relatively homogeneous. Indian laborers are brought in, but sent back afterward. Bhuddism is the state religion and is practiced by about 75% of the population. The other 25% consists primarily of Hindus along the southern border. Religion is part of culture and daily life. The government of Bhutan actively protects the local culture.

Among the sites Sandy visited was the striking Tiger's Nest Monastery. Built in 1692, this rambling, cliffside, walled structure is at about 12,000 feet elevation. Though the monastery is closed to visitors, the hike is worth the view and Sandy was proud to have made it. They say the tree line is higher than in Nepal, so there is more oxygen at higher elevations.

The national flower of Bhutan is the blue poppy, which grows at 1300 m. There are roughly 50 species of rhododendrons, with several endemic, including *Rhodo. falconeri*, the orange *Rhodo. cinnabarinum*, the white *Rhodo. wightii*, and the strikingly deep red *Rhodo. thomsonii*. Sandy noted that there, in their native environment, members of this genus grow to be 20 foot trees, rather than the decorative shrubs with which most of us are familiar.

OSSB Officer Nominations

President Randall Umland announced that Frank Methmann was nominated for president, with PJ Sanderson and Heidi Kirkpatrick returning as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Members will vote on the slate of officers at the November meeting. Randall also acknowledged the contribution of Robin Hamlin, who has taken over membership, mailing out the newsletter each month. Your editor, Heidi Kirkpatrick, is hugely indebted to Robin, who

is taking care of the part of “doing the newsletter” that can’t be written from a computer at midnight.

Sad News

Long time member Ed Carter passed away recently. Ed and Shirly Carter and their wonderful plants have been fixtures at our monthly meetings for years. The OSSB officers and board express their condolences to Shirly Carter.

Ribbon Judging Results

The October ribbon voting brought three clear winners. In third place was Bill Robson’s *Maxillaria lepidota*. Winning second place was Randall Umland’s *Schomburgkia* Wellesley. First place went to Don Brown’s *Lc.* Pink Perfume ‘Rosminah’. Thank you also to Larry Vierheilig and Frank Methmann for bringing plants.

Bryce Augustine reported that the AOS judging center experienced a first since its inception over a year ago. It was the first meeting at which the judges could not agree to award any plant.

Looking Ahead...

Our fall show is just around the corner. Support your society by volunteering and attending the show. Have visitors for Thanksgiving? Bring them to the show!

In December, the society will again celebrate with a holiday potluck, held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society.

The spring show is March 12-14, 2010 and society members are needed to install the society’s exhibit, staff the society’s sales booth, and volunteer to help the show itself. More at upcoming meetings!