

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
February 17, 2010**

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Tony Velardi
will speak about
Pendulous Cymbidiums

With cymbidium season in full swing, it is a great time to hear from the energetic and entertaining Tony Velardi, whose backyard hybridizing has produced a number of delightful pendulous cymbidiums, including the 2007 Santa Barbara show Grand Champ, *Cym. Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire'*. 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. His hybrids can be found at Mariposa Gardens, and, this month, on our raffle table!

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.

OSSB Officers for 2010:

President - Frank Methmann

Treasurer - PJ Sanderson

Membership & mailing - Robin Hamlin

Directors: Khosrow Sadeghian, Angela Watt, Randall Umland

Visit the OSSB Web Site!

Vice President - Todd Wenderski

Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick

Show Chair - Tom Ball

www.orchidsb.net



Top Photo: *Cym. First Dance 'Cha Cha'*. **Above:** *Cym. Giggly Gaby* was named for Tony and Regina Velardi's granddaughter. 2009 SBIOS, photos by Heidi Kirkpatrick.

WINTER AND SPRING MAKE ORCHID SEASON!

February 13-14, 2010

Newport Harbor Orchid Society Show, "For the Love of Orchids." Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA. www.nhos.org

February 20-21, 2010

Gardena Cymbidium Society Show, Nakaoka Memorial Center, 1670 West 162nd Street, Gardena, CA.

February 26-28, 2010

Pacific Orchid Exposition, 'Carnaval'. Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA. www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

March 12-14, 2010

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, "Nature in Harmony." Earl Warren Showgrounds. See the last page for how YOU CAN HELP!

March 13, 2010

Cymbidium Congress - not too late to register!

Summary of the January 2010 Meeting

❁ Announcements

- President Frank Methmann reminded everyone to pay their dues.
- Bill Robson is organizing tours of area growers. The next tour is Saturday, April 24. Please call Bill (568-3777) if you are willing to show off your growing area or are interested in touring.

❁ Program

Vice President Todd Wenderski introduced our January speaker, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Fred has been growing some thirty-three years, and began his commercial nursery twelve years ago. Although he is well known for his catasetum alliance and paphiopedilums and has strayed into bulbophyllums and Australian dendrobiums, he spoke to the membership about what he called his “first love:” mini and compact cattleyas.

Why grow mini and compact cattleyas? There are several reasons. Standard cattleys were bred for the cut flower industry and take up a square foot of growing space each. Several minis can fit in the same space. Miniatures also have a wider range of flower color and form than standards. Mini cattleyas bloom more frequently, two to three times a year. They were bred for hobby growers and tend to be vigorous, adaptable plants with upright stems.

Understanding mini and compact breeding best begins with a look at the species.

Sophronitis coccinea is an oxymoron in growing; it likes high light but cool temperatures. Fred noted that coastal Santa Barbara is probably okay for the species. In breeding, it is dominant for form, making broad petals and a round shape. The fire-engine red, however, is not necessarily dominant. Some of the line bred versions have petals wider than they are long.

Cattleya walkeriana plants are five to six inches tall. In breeding, the exposed column and the spade-shaped lip are dominant. The midline of the petals are upraised, giving plants a “happy” look; this is also dominant in hybrids. There are a number of color forms, including the typical pink-lavender, alba forms, semi-albas and coerulea or “blue” forms. After flowering around 100 plants, Fred also obtained a “flamea” variety, which has dark colored centers to the segments; he has since selfed this extremely rare form to see if it carries through.

Laelia pumila makes four to six inch plants with a characteristic downward slope to the petals, making a less

“happy” look. When used in hybridizing, this species is dominant for the color and tubular shape of the lip. These plants should be grown outdoors in our area, as they resent greenhouse growth.

Cattleya luteola has the opposite growing conditions. It is native to the Amazon basin, where it grows beneath tropical trees. It should be kept in a greenhouse and grown warm and shady like a phalaenopsis. Plants produce five to seven flowers per spike and come in a diploid (2n) or tetraploid (4n) form. The tetraploid has much fuller segments with a less starry shape to the flower; flowers also have heavier substance and the 4n plants are more robust.

Laelia alaorii is relatively new to cultivation and breeding. This true mini carried two and a half inch flowers on a three inch plant. Specimen plants will bloom on and off for about six months of the year, flowers coming on the new growth.

Cattleya aclandii plants are eight inches or less in height bearing darkly spotted flowers. In some varieties, the burgundy spots coalesce. This native of Brazil also has a very rare coerulea form, characterized by its “blue” lip. The alba form has no spots and small, one and a half inch flowers; it is difficult to grow.

Cattleya intermedia is, at twelve to sixteen inches in height, verging on a standard in size. The typical form is the characteristic cattleya pink. This extremely tolerant grower, however, is valued for its different forms. *C. intermedia* var. *aguinii* is extremely important in breeding for its pelorism. There are also coerulea forms of both the typical and the peloric varieties. Plants bloom reliably in March.

Laelia bregeri is a rupicolous or rock-dwelling species. These durable plants grow on exposed rock faces with up to 100°F daytime temperatures in the summer and down to 30°F on winter nights. Growers often baby these plants to death, when they really just belong outdoors. Plants are prized by breeders for their durability. The eight to ten inch slender bulbs bear five to seven flowers per spike, the flowers having a raised midline on the petals.

The essential primaries are the backbone of mini catt breeding programs. They establish breeding traits, give predictable results, and impart hybrid vigor. Fred noted that hybrids typically grow 30% to 50% faster than species. He discussed the main primary hybrids by illustrating their progeny. Primaries are good to cross with complex hybrids to emphasize important traits.

Sc. Beaufort (*Soph. coccinea* × *C. luteola*)

Sophronitis coccinea gives shape and *C. luteola* imparts a lovely golden color. There are two red spots in the lip, which are characteristic in the progeny. Among the hybrids in the

Sc. Beaufort breeding line are the following. The other parent is listed in parentheses.

Slc. Dream Catcher (*Slc.* Bright Angel)

Slc. Seagulls Mini-Cat Heaven (*Slc.* Tangerine) - five inch plant with two and a half inch flowers.

Slc. Mango Spice (*Slc.* California Apricot)

Pot. Little Toshie (*Blc.* Toshie Aoki) - the other parent is a beautiful standard with a ruffled flower. The result is a *Potinara* six inches tall with a three inch flower.

Slc. Million Kiss (*L.* *pumila*) - a four inch tall plant that blooms twice a year in pretty pinks with a beautiful Beaufort shape.

Slc. Dream Weaver (*Slc.* Fire Fantasy) - great color with fiery orange-reds over yellows.

Pot. Free Spirit (*Pot.* Love Call) - looks like a standard orange but has three inch flowers on a six inch plant.

Lc. Mini Purple (*L.* *pumila* × *C.* *walkeriana*)

In addition to the typical color, this hybrid has been made with the coerulea forms of both parents, with the result that mini blues have been appearing in hybridizing the last seven or eight years.

Lc. Aloha Case (*C.* *walkeriana*) - like *C.* *walkeriana* on steroids!

Lc. Sacramento Rose (*L.* *alaorii*) - a dark lip with the shape of the *L.* *alaorii* parent on a plant that blooms two to three times a year.

× *Lc.* Culminant - the Culminant parent is an old standard that was the second meristemmed cattleya sold in the US. This cross makes a four and a half inch flower in a three inch pot.

Lc. Garrett Collins (*C.* Little Dipper)

Slc. Dream Catcher (*Slc.* Bright Angel)

× *Slc.* Angel Jack - Striking peloric flowers with a dark redding overlay.

Dialc. Silver Mini (*Diac.* Silver Toy) - fragrant, sparkling pink and purple flowers five to seven on a stem bred especially for the hot conditions of Florida customers.

× *Lc.* Sierra Skies - petals are fuller and broader than either parent, and there is a blue form.

Sl. Orpetii (*L.* *pumila* × *Soph.* *coccinea*)

The characteristic narrow lip from the *coccinea* parent persists for several generations.

Sl. Minipet (*Soph.* *coccinea*) - fire engine red flowers make a good substitute for *Soph.* *coccinea* in breeding, since it is easier to grow than the species.

× *Blc.* King George - reds over orange underlays.

(*Sl.* Minipet × *Sc.* Beaufort) - two and a half inch flowers in a variety of colors, including bright reds, gorgeous yellows with red lips, or flamaea types.

(*Sl.* Minipet × *Slc.* Tangerine Jewel) - fantastic color on an easy grower.

(*Sl.* Minipet × *Lc.* Sacramento Rose) - One to two very pretty flowers one multiple leads in a three inch pot.

Advanced hybrids build on known traits, developing size, color and shape. Often species are reintroduced as one parent. A wide range of colors is possible, and plants are easy to flower. Fred noted that he makes 15 flasks of each cross, which yields about 500 plants. Seedlings must have three roots to be considered strong enough out of flask, and he will toss all but the 200 strongest looking seedlings. After a year, he evaluates plant habit and selects the most upright 100 to 150 plants. Then 100 will go into three inch pots, again the strongest and most upright growers. Flowers are evaluated for stem strength, color, etc. By selecting for growth habit in this manner, Fred hybridizes strong plants that don't need staking.

Space prevents listing all the hybrids, but among them are the following:

Blc. Lovely Toshie (*Blc.* Love Sound × *Blc.* Toshie Aoki) - the first parent roots as growths develop and the second after it flowers; the hybrid roots twice a year, and is therefore a cast iron grower, making yellow flowers with a deep red lip.

Slc. Carlos E. Ospina (*Slc.* Jungle Jewel × *C.* Sandra Turner) - wild and crazy colors from spotted breeding. Yellow with spots. Red with fuchsia spots. And the amazing red with a white lip!

Lc. Mari's Magic (*Lc.* Mari's Song × *Lc.* Tokyo Magic) - the lovely, splash-petal Mari's Song results in a showy peloric of white with purple tips.

(*Blc.* Horizon Flight × *Blc.* Love Sound) - gorgeous yellow with red picotee, wide segments.

Culturally, Fred recommends watering heavily, which displaces stagnant air in the mix and pulls in fresh air as the water drains. Since cattleya leaves have few stomata to take up carbon dioxide, much of the plant's carbon comes through the roots from the air. For tap water, he recommends at every watering 15-15-15 or 20-20-20 at ½ to 1 tsp/gallon, where the phosphoric acid neutralizes the pH. For R/O, D/I or rain water, he recommends 13-3-15 Ca Mg. He uses a 3 to 1 mix of bark and perlite, finer in smaller pots. Charcoal is hard on the environment and he doesn't recommend it.

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Membership Renewal

Annual Membership is \$30. Make checks payable to OSSB. Memberships can be renewed at the monthly meeting or by sending your check to: PJ Sanderson, 2211 Alameda Padre Serra, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Please include the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Show Table Results~ First place went to a variegated (!) *masdevallia* belonging to Josh Davis. Second was a tied between Don Brown's *Cym. tortisepalum* and Todd Wenderski's *Masd. Falcon Sunrise 'Cardinal'* AM/AOS. Four of Bill Robson's plants tied for third: a *miltoniopsis*, a *comparettia*, a fuchsia *minicatt*, and *Epi. quisayanum*. Thanks also to Robin Hamlin, James Merriman and Frank Methmann for bringing plants.

The AOS judges were busy! Josh Davis won an amazing FCC on his *Masd. veitchiana* 'Juan Leathers'. An HCC went to Don Brown's *Cym erythraeum* 'Chu Chu'. And SBOE brought in a fantastic group of *L. anceps* and hybrids for an AQ and a quality award.

Spring Show~We need Volunteers!!

- Call Jeff Thompson (563-4376) to help with display set-up and teardown March 10. Make sure the plants you bring are free from disease and pests! Be sure to put your name on the pot (masking tape + marker works well).
- PJ Sanderson needs volunteers to man the OSSB sales booth, shared with SBOE. For those with plants to sell, pick up your tags from PJ at the February meeting.
- Sign up to ribbon judge the show (Thursday, March 11 at 9:30 am); sign up sheets at the February meeting.
- Sign up to volunteer as a show door monitor. Call Randall Umland (962-6004) for details.