

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the
American Orchid Society

Special Meeting:

Friday, July 9, 2010

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

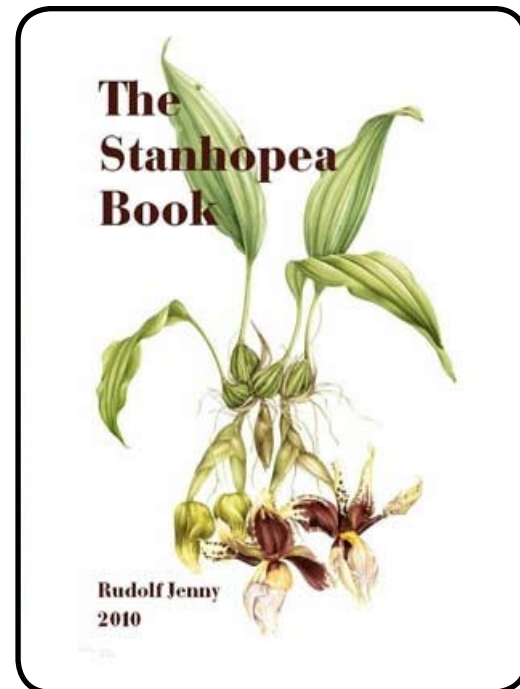
Dr. Rudolph Jenny
will speak about
Stanhopeas

The definitive book on *Stanhopea* is out and we have the rare opportunity to hear from its esteemed author. Dr. Rudolph Jenny is internationally recognized as an expert on orchid species. He is a prized speaker and has spoken at several World Orchid Conferences. He is the species expert behind the wonderful website of the Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium Jany Renz (www.orchid.unibas.ch). Don't miss this special lecture, held jointly with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society!

Contact Gene Baum (gborchids@verizon.net) for reservations if you would like to have dinner with the speaker at "State and A" at 5:30.

AOS Judging:

The AOS will hold a special public judging session at the Orchid Fair at 1 PM on Saturday, July 10. There will be no judging at the Friday special meeting, but regular judging will be held on July 21, 2010 (confirm with judging chair Bryce Augustine at moflo@cox.net).



Above: Your editor shamelessly lifted this image from the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate website. If you like *Stanhopeas*, come listen to our special speaker, who will have copies for sale at the Orchid Fair.

ORCHID FAIR! July 9-11, 2010

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair. Earl Warren Showgrounds. Friday and Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM. Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. AOS judging on Friday at 1 PM. All Japan *Neofinetia falcata* judging on Saturday; drop off plants at the Orchid Limited booth between 9 AM and 1 PM. Guest author Rudolph Jenny will be signing his new book, **The Stanhopea Book**. Admission free; parking \$5. CSA judging at Orchids Royale on Saturday at 1 PM.

LOOKING AHEAD ... August 14, 2010

SUMMER POTLUCK! 12 Noon at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Held with SBCS.

November 27-28, 2010

OSSB FALL SHOW! Mark the date! Installation is November 26, 2010. We will need plenty of volunteers and good plants for the society's display!

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

Summary of the June 2010 Meeting

❁ Program Report

Thanks to Jeff Thompson for providing the following notes

Our June speaker was Mark Bentow, who, soon after beginning the orchid hobby, began traveling to Mexico, and Central and South America to study orchids in their natural habitats. Since CITES became restrictive, Mark no longer collects orchids. He travels by himself or with one or two others and manages well because he speaks Spanish fluently.

In April of 2002, he traveled to Peru to study orchids in their natural habitat. Peru's climate and topography are dominated by the Andes Mountain Range, which runs from north to south the entire length of the country. In the north the Andes Mountains are two ranges with a high valley between them coming out of Ecuador; further south the two ranges join into one range and extend south out of Peru into Chile. The trade winds of the Southern Hemisphere blow east to west and this, with the Andes Mountains, controls the climate of Peru. On the eastern side of the Andes, the warm trade winds rise up the slopes of the Andes, cooling as they rise and dropping the last of their moisture after blowing all the way across Brazil. The western side of the Andes has much less rain than the eastern side, and much of the Pacific coastal plane is considered desert.

Peru is a great place to visit to see orchids in their native habitat because there may be more than 3,000 orchid species within Peru, with as many as 1,000 or more species native to only Peru. Of those 3,000 or more species, there are six species of *Cattleya* including *C. luteola*, *C. maxima*, *C. iricolor*, *C. rex*, *C. violacea*.

The Andes Mountains also dominate travel within Peru in that there is not a large or extensive network of roads that traverse the Andes east-to-west. Travel within Peru is basically by airplane and centered upon Lima, the capital of the country situated on the Pacific coast near the center of the country north to south. Commercial air travel within Peru is also centered upon Lima in that commercial air travel within Peru consists of flights from Lima to the out lying cities with

airports and then back to Lima. There is very little to no commercial air traffic between the different out lying cities with airports. So to travel from say Lima to Iquitos and then on to Cuzco you must fly from Lima to Iquitos, then fly from Iquitos to Lima, then fly from Lima to Cuzco. So with this travel ability in mind Mark began his Orchid hunting trip in Peru by flying into Lima and then by flying northeast out of Lima to Iquitos where his orchid hunting began. Mark did mention early on during the presentation that we would be learning about the orchid habitat climates in Peru as well as seeing the orchids themselves, and seeing some of the native people and their culture.

Mark began his orchid hunting trip in Iquitos which is at an elevation around 400 feet above mean sea level and is located on the Amazon River in the northeast portion of Peru several thousand miles from the Atlantic Ocean. This is the western-most point of the Amazon River that ocean going freighters can travel. It was within the city limits of Iquitos that Mark saw his first orchid, an *Oncidium* species growing on a tree with a three inch diameter trunk.

Because of the surrounding tropical rainforest, there are only two forms of transportation to and from Iquitos: air and boat. Foot travel within the jungle is difficult and it is easy to become disoriented. Additionally, few orchids grow near ground level in the dark of the jungle; most grow near the tops of the trees where they receive some light. Some areas were so dark that even Mark's flash did not produce adequate photos. Seeing the jungles and the orchids that grow there is best by boat.

Some orchids Mark found in the warm and humid jungles around Iquitos or were planted out in a natural type of setting (mounted on trees) at the Eco-Lodge where Mark stayed. *Catasetum saccatum* was growing epiphytically in a very dark habitat. *Cattleya luteola* was found on mossless trees about six feet above water level in warm and humid conditions. *Encyclia radiata* grew hot and humid, as did *Dichaea* species.

Mark found an *Epidendrum* species with its leaves

were covered with moss. There was an *Epidendrum* species with a flower similar to *Epidendrum nocturnum* but very different leaves.

Oncidium species grew with little to no canopy cover, but because in the tropics there is very little clear sky with no cloud cover (the skies are clear for only one or two hours per day) the plant was actually growing in diffused light. A “Mule Ear” *Oncidium* was also found.

There were many *Pleurothallis* species, in addition to *Stanhopea candida*. *Sobralia violacea* was also growing hot and humid in this area.

Summer is the rainy season for Iquitos, with high humidity and intermediate to warm temperatures. It was overcast most of the day, so that even fully exposed orchids were effectively in bright shade (maybe fifty percent shade cloth). It rained every afternoon at least once for fifteen minutes to an hour.

The next orchid hunting stop for Mark was Moyobamba (called the City of Orchids) at an elevation of 860 meters – 2,795 feet above mean sea level in the Tarapoto foothills of the eastern side of the Andes southwest of Iquitos. Some of the plants Mark observed that were below 5,000 feet in elevation: *Bletia patula*; *Cattleya iricolor*; many *Epidendrum* species; *Pescatoria*; and *Sobralia atropubescens* (the flower lasts only eight hours).

Along the way was a roadside vendor selling orchids displayed hanging from the roof or sitting on tables or horizontal boards. Most of the plants were of specimen size and some were in bloom. The average price \$0.25-\$0.30. The orchids were potted in metal cans, hand woven baskets, and plastic bags with handles like we would get at the grocery store.

Mark also observed plants at elevations above 5,000 feet with some from around 9,000 feet. These included *Bollea hirtzii*; *Brassia* species; *Chondrorhyncha*; *Cochleanthes amazonica*; *Cochlioda vulcanica* (growing epiphytically low on trees); *Epidendrum paniculatum*; *Epidendrum secundum*; *Fernandezia sanguinea*; *Huntleya meleagris*; *Kefersteinia candida*; *Kefersteinia saccata*; *Lycaste ciliata*; *Masdevallia lamprotyria*; *Masdevallia lucernula*; *Maxillaria callichroma*; *Maxillaria sanderiana*

with quite large flowers; *Maxillaria grayi* (on a vendor’s table); *Maxillaria fuscata*; *Maxillaria ecuadorensis*; *Maxillaria splendens*; several *Miltonia*; *Odontoglossum juninense*; *Odontoglossum trilobum*; and *Pleurothallis cardiothallis*.

Phragmipedium boisserianum grew very well on rocks on in leaf litter on web substrate in open road cuts (no tree canopy overhead). One clump looked to have 100 plants. *Phragmipedium richteri* grew so close to the water’s edge that when the water level would rise during heavy rains, the plant would be submerged.

Restrepia striatalbrachypus was found around the



7,000 foot elevation. These do very well in baskets or pots in shade and will bloom four times per year. Some of the two *Sobralia* species were at least twelve feet in height. In third growth forest were many epidendrums, pleurothallids and stelis species.

At Machu Picchu at 7,000 feet were: *Cattleya maxima*; *Cynochesperuviana*; *Epidendrum paniculatum*; *Lycaste* species; *Masdevallia weberbaueri* (grow very

cool); *Mormodes rolfeana*; *Mormolyca gracilipes*; *Oncidium onustum* (needs a dry winter rest).

Mark's last image was of a magnificent sunset over a palm tree silhouetted beach in Máncora on the northwest coast of Peru. The location was well worth any effort to get there in that the cabanas were \$30 a night, the seafood was excellent, and a plate of seviche enough for four people was only \$10.

Show Table Results

The show table winner for June were *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* 'Marybrook' and *Tolumnia* Red Berry, both belonging to James Merriman. Second place went to Larry Vierheilig's *Laelia purpurata* var. *werkhauseri*. Third place was a three way tie between Larry Vierheilig's *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, Richard Brown's *Paphiopedilum* Michael Koopowitz, and Don Brown's yellow *Neofinetia falcata*. Thanks to these exhibitors and to everyone who brought plants to share on the show table.

Coming up

The Greenhouse Tour was a success (see page 3 for photos from Frank Methman)! Don't forget these upcoming society events:

August potluck (held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society)

Next OSSB speaker: Peter Lin discussing Dendrobiums!

OSSB Fall Show over Thanksgiving Weekend!

The theme will be "Orchids Run Amok" so start thinking now about clever designs for our society display!