

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Next Meeting:

Wednesday,
October 19, 2011

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

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Ken Jacobsen
will speak about
Orchid Travels in Peru

Come take an armchair trip to Peru to visit orchids in the wild and see AOS judging in Lima and Moyobamba! Ken Jacobsen has grown cymbidiums for over 40 years. With his wife, Amy, he now has a collection of some 2500 cymbidiums and 2500 other genera including cattleya alliance plants, vandas and masdevallias. Their *Cattleya amethystoglossa* var. *coerulea* 'Winston' was Best Orchid in Show at the 2007 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Ken is an AOS and CSA judge and Chair of CSA Judging.



Photo: *Cattleya amethystoglossa* var. *coerulea* 'Winston' won Best Orchid in Show at the 2007 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. The plant was shown by Amy and Ken Jacobsen. Photo by Heidi Kirkpatrick.

OSSB Officers and Board for 2011:

President - Frank Methmann	Vice President - Wayne Ferrell
Treasurer - PJ Sanderson	Secretary - Heidi Kirkpatrick
Membership & mailing - Frank Methmann	Hospitality - Frank Methmann
Raffle - Jeff Thompson	Silent Auction - Art Denk
Show Table Results - Heidi Kirkpatrick	AOS Rep - Sandy Svoboda
Directors-at-large - Don Brown & Randall Umland	
Web Master - Meryl Wieder	
Visit the OSSB Web Site!	www.orchidsb.net

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.

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❁ OSSB Fall Show “Orchids: Nature’s Masterpieces”

Set-up: Friday, noon to 5 PM, November 25, 2011. Bring your plants for your display or the society’s.

Show: Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27, 2011. Show is free with Museum admission. We need volunteers for hospitality & sales.

Sales: The sales booth at the fall show is one of our major fund raisers. Members are strongly encouraged to: 1) sell plants, with the society keeping 25% of the sales price; 2) buy plants from the society sales booth; and 3) volunteer to help with sales. (Someone has to take the money from shoppers!)

Publicity: We need help publicizing the show! If you have good, free publicity ideas, coordinate with the OSSB Board and help with a little piece of publicity.

❁ Announcements

- **OSSB will start accepting dues for 2012.** Bring your checkbook to the September meeting and make sure you keep on the membership roster.
- The nominating committee is accepting nominations for new officers (like a *secretary/newsletter editor!*). Contact a board member for more info.

❁ Report on the September Meeting

Note: Your editor had to leave early, so this report is incomplete.

Our own Arthur Pinker spoke to us on *Oncidium* Intergeneric Orchids. Arthur, who is the Chair of Information for our AOS judging region, used to live in the Pacific Northwest, where *oncidiums* and *odontoglossums* grow very easily. Now he lives in the more challenging climate of Santa Clarita, where winter lows can drop to 26°F and summer highs can reach 110°F. He noted that he is learning to grow in adverse conditions, and added that he will never stop learning.

The *Oncidium* Alliance, like many other types of orchids, is going through dramatic name changes. As of one year ago, the group contained 487 genera, 70 of which were natural, 67 invalid, and the rest man-made hybrid genera. In 2011, there were 23,000 hybrids in this

group, which, when one omits the synonyms resulting from the new taxonomy, drops to a “mere” 17,000 hybrids. Similarly, there are 2,647 species, which drops to 1,534 when the synonyms are removed.

Culturally, *oncids* prefer moderate light at the 2000-3000 foot-candle level and humidity in the 70% to 90% range. Arthur uses quarter to half strength fertilizer and notes that the rest period varies by type.

For mix, he uses fine bark and perlite. The mix should be fast draining and airy, as this group of plants particularly detests soggy roots. Note, however, that the infamous crinkly leaves—some *miltonias* and *miltoniopsis* are particularly prone to these—are the result of low humidity.

The group is too large to examine in detail, but Arthur presented a sampling of interesting species, beginning with the genus *Aspasia*, which consists of small plants with two to three inch flowers appearing three to five per spike. *A. lunata* will make one to two flowers per spike; flowers have grown barring on a greenish ground and a white lip with purple. *A. principissa* is used in hybrids for its lip and sepal/petal patterns.

Brassia species have large, starry or spidery flowers, often in tones of green, on a great spike. Examples include the enormous *B. arcuigera*, *B. caudata*, and *B. gireoudiana*. *Baptistonia eichinata* is a charming miniature now in the genus *Gomesa*. Similarly renamed is *Chelyorchis ampliata*, which used to be *Oncidium ampliatum*; this is another miniature with a high flower count.

The genus *Miltonia* consists of warm growing Brazilian species including *Milt. clowesii* and *Milt. cuneata*. *Milt. flavescens* produces lots of flowers and is very free to bloom. *Milt. moreliana* has flowers with a great size but a low flower count.

The genus *Odontoglossum* has completely gone away, with species being assigned to various other genera by taxonomists. *Odm. halii* is now *Oncidium*. *Odontoglossum praestans* is now *Onc. praestanoides*. *Odontoglossum bictoniense* is now *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*. Arthur noted that these name changes come about because many very different species look similar because they are pollinated

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by similar pollinators. However, new genetic evidence shows they are not closely related and species need to be moved to other genera. Current thought also tends toward lumping of species and genera, so there are not so many monotypic genera. Fortunately, the RHS will keep many of the new names.

The genus *Oncidium* now contains a number of species, including the former *Cyrtorchilum flexuosum*. *Oncidium fuscatum* used to be *Miltonia warszewiczii*, which is in the ancestry of many hybrids. *Oncidium gaianense*, which used to be in the genus *Tolumnia*, is in the background of 1200 hybrids! It produces a sixteen inch spike with twenty flowers.

The genus *Rodriguezia* makes a big display with lots of white flowers on a small plant. Species include *R. batemannii*, *decora*, *greanadensis* and *venusta*. The genus *Tolumnia* also consists of small plants that make a floriferous display. Species include *T. bahanensis*, *T. pulchella* and *T. variegata*.

Among the hybrids discussed by Arthur were the following:

- *Aspasium* Thunderbolt (*Aspasia principissa* × *Onc. leucocilium*) - pretty white lip and dark petals.
- *Aspoglossum* Jeanne Marie - warmth tolerant; flattened lip with mahogany petals.
- *Baptidium* Little Dragon - lovely miniature with a high flower count.
- *Brasasia* Seren - lovely brown stripes longitudinally on green petals; white lip with brown markings. Flowers are 3.5" x 5" on a manageably sized plant.
- *Brassidium* Aloha - big yellow lip
- *Brassidium* Dorothy Barfield - starchy, 3.5" flowers with a nice presentation
- *Ionocidium* Popcorn - 1" flowers on a small plant making a good display with a tall spike
- *Leokoa* Florence Grice - the awarded plant shown by Arthur had an astonishing 97 flowers on 9 spikes. Flowers are 1" in size and the plant itself is not large.
- *Miltassia* Aztec - the *Miltonia spectabilis* influence is seen in the pink color and low flower count. The 5 inch flowers do have great color.
- *Miltassia* Cartagena - has starchy white flowers to 16" in size. Though both parents are colored, the green suppresses the dark color of the other parent.
- *Miltassia* Dark Star - rich dark colors of a red lip on purple with red petals and sepals.
- *Aliceara* Jet Wars - brown with a contrasting white lip marked with red. Formerly *Miltassia*.
- *Miltassia* Royal Robe - rich red 3.5" x 9" flowers. The award slide showed a plant with 46 flowers on 9 spikes.
- *Brassostele* Aztec - 26 flowers on 3 spikes. Formerly *Odontobrassia*
- *Odontocidium* (*Odontostele*) Black Beauty - 4 foot spike stright up. Almost black flowers with crimson red lip.
- *Odontocidium* (*Odontostele*) Dana Reikke - a dancing lady type with 2" flowers of yellow with brown markings appearing up to 34 per spike.
- *Odontocidium* (*Cyrtodontocidium*) Susan Kaufman - yellow with bold brown markings, red over yellow on the lip.
- *Odontocidium* Wintergold - white lip, pale gold petals with brown markings
- *Odontonia* Debutante - flowers with chocolate colored segments and a white lip; arranged densely on the spike
- *Oncidenia* Little India - small plant and flowers with high contrast markings of white and brown
- *Oncidenia* Volcano - attractive flowers with a pink lip, yellow segments with brown markings on a small plant. Arthur noted that his is almost constantly in bloom.
- *Oncidium* (*Psychocentrum*) Kristi Leigh - yellow flowers with strong brown striping, shape is open.
- *Zelemnia* Carotene - yellow flowers with brown markings.
- *Aliceara* Aztec Wars - 2.5 inch flowers of yellow and brown appearing 9 per spike.
- *Carpinterara* Happy Day - pretty brown patterns on yellow and white flowers.

67th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
March 16-18, 2012

"Orchidelic"

OSSB always installs an exhibit. The upcoming theme, "Orchidelic" celebrates the kaleidoscope of orchid colors and shapes we all enjoy. Start thinking now about how to incorporate the theme in our display!

NEW EDITOR NEEDED!

I have threatened to retire before, but this time I really need to find a replacement. I have taken on added responsibilities in other aspects of my life and can't do the newsletter justice anymore. If you ever want to see a timely newsletter again, volunteer to write it! I will help my successor get started.

Email me at orchidtrain@cox.net for information.

Show Table Results

Your editor had to leave before the show table results were tabulated and presented and apologizes for not having that information. In lieu of Show Table Results, here is a photo I took at the 2011 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. The exhibit was Ventura Farms and the plant is *Oncidium* Herb Thoreson × *Odontocidium* Tiger Hambühren.

