

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

“Orchids for Amateurs”

Founded July, 1957

*The*

## INFLORESCENCE

August, 2004

Web site: [www.southbayorchidsociety.com](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com)

[www.southbayorchidsocietyshow.com](http://www.southbayorchidsocietyshow.com)



Cattleya warneri  
var. alba

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### South Bay Orchid Society Board:

#### President:

Marla Corey—310-833-1918

Email: SquareRig@aol.com

#### 1st Vice President

Nick Braemer—310-560-4384

Email: orchidnick@yahoo.com

#### 2nd Vice President:

May Dobratz—310-375-2693

Email: bdobratz@ix.netcom.com

#### Treasurer:

Jim Rowley—310-376-3542

Email: jrowley@alum.nu.edu

#### Secretary:

Thamina Haque—310-374-9898

Email: fororchids@netscape.net

Thamina@adelphia.net

#### Membership:

Susann Patton—310-944-9798

Email: slpatton@earthlink.net

#### Spring Show Chairperson:

Kathy Synsteliën—310-833-3029

Email: ksynsteliën@earthlink.net

#### Newsletter Editor:

Ned Patton—310-944-9798

Fax: 714-224-1710

Email: epatton1@earthlink.net

#### Directors:

Ron Henry—310-374-9699

Email: orkidguy@earthlink.net

Chuck Spain—562-531-3018

Fax: 562-633-8544

Dr. Robert Streeter—310-541-6692

Email: rjs.ges@gte.net

### August Meeting

Friday, August 20, 2004

8:00 pm

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

**Our Speaker this month is**

**Ron Parsons**

Ron resides in Northern California. Ron will share his love of orchids through photography by showing us a slide display of rare orchids in their native habitats.

His photography skills are well-known in the plant world, and his photographs have been published in many magazines.

Ron is considered by many to be one of the San Francisco Bay Area's best orchid photographers. He is a member of the San Francisco Orchid Society and has been growing orchids for over 25 years. His love of orchid photography has taken him to many faraway places such as Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico and Australia. Ron has taken tens of thousands of plant shots and currently has over 20,000 orchid slides. He has had many photographs published in books, magazines, newspapers and brochures.

He has given talks both nationally and internationally on a wide range of orchid topics along with other topics that include Cacti & Succulents, Carnivorous Plants, Gesneriads and California Wildflowers.

Nick Braemer

## President's Message

Our new board is off to a great start. Everyone is enthusiastic and looking forward to the new year. One of the events we are adding back to our calendar of events is our trip to Zuma Canyon Orchids. The new twist on the event is that we will be going on April 16, rather than the September date we usually have. Finally we will get to see the green houses filled with blooming plants.

In this month's culture session Dave DeYoung will be giving the second part of his lecture on fertilizers. Even if you missed part one, there is still a lot to learn about fertilizers and proper applications to your plants.

Our society has a wonderful library. It has books for the beginning grower as well as the advanced grower who is looking for scientific reference books. Kathy Synstelien is our new librarian and is here to help you. These books are a resource to be used by our members, not just to set on the shelf. Talk to Kathy at the meeting this Friday.

The fall show and sale is September 25 and 26. Thank you to everyone who responded to my requests for committee chairs for our fall show. All of the positions have been filled. There will be sign up sheets at the August meeting to help on the various committees. The one committee every one can help with is publicity. John Jaacks will have posters and flyers available for us to pass out in our communities. We cannot have a successful show with out getting the public to attend.

If you are unable to attend the August meeting and would like to sign up to help, you can phone these committee chairs:

Ron Henry: 374-9699—Set up and take down  
Marilyn Hill: 675-0604—Host and hostess  
Carolyn Gould: 546-2133—Kitchen and food  
Shirley Marble: 643-5740—Kitchen and food  
Lyn Jaacks: 377-4857—plant registration

See you at the August meeting.

*Marla Corey*



Paph Norito Hasegawa  
"February Moon"

Photo courtesy Ron Henry

## WATER CULTURE

Much has been written about water culture but no one I know has given it a serious try. I read Venger's web site 4 months ago and placed 3 plants in water culture, a Phaelanopsis, a Sarchochilus and a Masdevallia. As was predicted by some, the Phael did poorly and I rescued it after 2 months. The other 2 have been in it for 4 months and are doing fine. Again as predicted, they rotted out their entire root system but are now busy producing new, green, firm roots which apparently are used to the water and show no sign of rot. During this process new leaf production went on at the usual rate. The plants appear healthy, but no more so than other similar plants in conventional growing media. (He he - like horse manure and semi hydroponic). I can't compare them to bark as I have banned bark from my growing area.

The recommended way to do this is to find a glass or transparent container big enough for a robust root system for the plant you are trying to grow. Since repotting is not necessary, estimated the predicted size of the root ball in 4 to 5 years and find a glass or transparent plastic container big enough. The top opening may be smaller like a vase as it ideally supports the base of the plant. In reality some mechanism has to be employed to keep the plant in place until the root ball is big enough to support the plant. A couple of sticks, some wire or whatever. Add enough water to totally cover the roots but not the leaves and in this heat one may have to top it off when necessary. Use the usual fertilizer at the usual strength. Once a week empty the container and refill. For a few hundred plants this would get labor intensive, so this is only suitable for the number of plants you are willing to perform this task for. Venger recommends Epsom salt, 1 teaspoon / gallon once every 3 months. As stated before anticipate total deterioration of the existing root system, this is normal and will flush out with the weekly water change. The new roots will be adapted to this culture method and NEED to be covered with water. If they stay covered with water they will not rot and last forever, hence a large root ball is anticipated. That's why I said earlier that in this heat, the water needs to be topped off, but only once the "new" roots are in evidence.

The advantages are not having to deal with deteriorating bark, never having to worry about salt build up and being able to watch your root system like never before. By the way, do not eliminate the green algae which will form, as it is beneficial to gas exchange.

At this point I have established that it works, however its too labor intensive to put a whole lot of plants in it and run a comparison study, what I plan to do is to place an example of each of the main groups in a glass container and see what happens. It will probably take a couple of years to develop the luxurious root balls they are talking about, we'll see. Ahnold was NOT interested. "Was ist das wasser culture?", he said, 'dere is no money in dat!'

Enjoy your water lilies, Nicholas Braemer

## GROWING ORCHIDS INDOORS

Ever heard that old saying “I thought you had to grow orchids in a greenhouse”. That has often been the response when I told someone new to the orchid world that I have over 160 orchids thriving in my studio apt. 3 blocks from the beach. With 2 large south facing windows and cool ocean breezes, I have ample light and humidity and my plants are thriving. The easiest types to grow indoors are Paphiopedilum and Phalaenopsis, I have also had success with some Phragmipedium’s and a few Vanda’s in the bathroom, but not much luck with Cattleya’s (outdoors or greenhouse for those). I move my plants around with the change of seasons ie. the variegated Paph’s and Phalie’s I keep in the warmer spots and the solid green leafed Paph’s I keep in front of the window that opens since they prefer cooler temps.

Of course there have been many trials & tribulations with trying out every possible potting mixture I have been told about (except the horse manure - I passed on that one). My Paph’s love a mixture of coconut (shredded or in chunks), perlite or pumice, and charcoal, you can also mix in some small bark too and keep moist, Phrag’s especially need to be kept moist. Both Paph’s & Phrag’s love to be repotted every year. Larger Phalaenopsis with big roots do very well in the hydroponics since the roots reach the bottom where there is ample water. The smaller plants however seem to float up to the top and then dry out so I re-potted them in bark and perlite and they did much better. I’ve have blooms on some of my Phalie’s for as long as 6 months and some Paph’s as long as 5-6 weeks.

I also keep a humidity tray under each plant and this is especially important during the summer months. Air circulation is also very important so have windows opened as much as possible and a fan works wonders when that air stagnates. Over watering was one of my biggest problems, I lost many plants from rot, so use caution with your watering.

Now on the subject of bugs, this is a never ending battle. Ants bring scale & mealybug to your plants so if you have ants present, try using Neem Seed Oil. You dilute it with water and spray it on your plants. It’s actually a fertilizer but it works great as a deterrent to bugs. Since I started using it several months ago I have not had one ant come near my plants. I did find one in the kitchen , but it was after Dolores Devito’s apricot jam. A Q-tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol also works well on scales & mealy bugs. You have to keep on them though, left unattended they can quickly infect your plant. Removing old sheaths at the base of the plants helps considerably and if you find mealy bug there a quick spritz with a mixture of water, alcohol, and antibacterial soap will work wonders.

Ron Henry

## 7-18-04 SBOS Ribbon Judging

Ribbon	Plant	Exhibitor
<b>Novice</b>	<b>Miltonia Alliance</b>	<b>Mary Jacobs judge</b>
1	Dgmra. Winter wonderland 'White Fairy'	Jim Rowley
2	Miltonia Hajimeno	Kathy West
3	Colmanara Wildcat 'K2843'	Jim Rowley
<b>Novice</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Mary Jacobs judge</b>
1	Paph. Alma Gavaert 'Terry's Choice' x Cocoa Cherry 'Dome'	Jim Rowley
2	Tolumnia unknown	Jim Rowley
3	Brsdm. Shooting Star 'Musard' x Brassia Rex 'Pajaro'	Janine Slane
<b>Amateur</b>	<b>Dendrobium</b>	<b>Jim Hoyle judge</b>
1	Chrysotoxum	Bernadette Nazareno
2	Chrysotoxum	Joan Bailey
3	Den. parishii	Joan Bailey
Cultural	Chrysotoxum	Bernadette Nazareno
<b>Amateur</b>	<b>Phal-Phrag</b>	<b>Jim Hoyle judge</b>
1	Paph sukhakulii x barbatum	Joan Bailey
2	Paph Pinocchio x niveum	Joan Bailey
3	Mem Dick Clements	Themina Haque
<b>Amateur</b>	<b>Cattleya Alliance</b>	<b>Jim Hoyle judge</b>
1	Epidendrum Grand Bahama x Epi alatum	Joan Bailey
2	C intermedia x L anceps	Thamina Haque
3	Cattl unk	Joan Bailey
<b>Amateur</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Jim Hoyle judge</b>
1	Nageliella purpurea	Mary Jacobs
2	Lockhartia species	Mary Jacobs
3	Encyclia unk	Mary Jacobs
<b>Adv Amateur</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Dave DeYoung judge</b>
1	Masdevallia vechiana 'Betty'	Jim Hoyle
2	Trichoceros platyceros	Jim Hoyle
3	Oncidium varigatum 'Alba'	Jim Hoyle
<b>Adv Amateur</b>	<b>Cattleya Alliance</b>	<b>Dave DeYoung judge</b>
1	BLC Ann Cloe 'Stars + Stripes'	Marla Corey
2	Brassavola cucullata	Kathy Synstelien
3	Brassavola nodosa	Kathy Synstelien
<b>Adv Amateur</b>	<b>Paphs and Phals</b>	<b>Dave DeYoung judge</b>
1	Paph St. Swithen x Bernice	Marla Corey
2	Paph armeniacum x primulinum	Kathy Synstelien
3	Phal Gallant Beau x Dpts. Malibu Theme	Marla Corey

The results of the '03-'04 Ribbon judging are:

### Novice

Joan Bailey 1st Moves up to Amateur  
 Ron Henry 2nd Moves up to Amateur  
 Mary Jacobs 3rd Moves up to Amateur  
 Jasmine Bashi Moves up to Amateur (>20 points)

### Amateur

Marla Corey 1st Moves up to Adv Amateur  
 Bernadette Nazareno 2nd  
 Ann McNeeley 3rd

### Advanced Amateur

Nick Braemer 1st Moves to Exhibitor  
 Jim Hoyle 2nd  
 K Synstelien 3rd

# People, Places and Things

## South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

Meets on the third Friday of each month  
Culture Session at 7:00 p.m.  
General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

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## Board Meeting

The August 25, 2004, board meeting will be at the Meeting Room at Whole Foods Market at Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Blvd. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. The room is easily accessed by an elevator located past the café area at the front of the store.

## Thanks

To those giving people who provide information for the newsletter:  
Nick Braemer, Marla Corey, Ron Henry, and Jackie and Ted Johnson

## **Editor's Corner**

This month we have two culture articles, one from Nick Braemer about water culture and one from Ron Henry about growing orchids indoors. Most of us have at least some of our orchids inside—why have them unless you can see them and enjoy them when they are in bloom. Those of us that don't have greenhouses grow at least some of our orchid types indoors. For us, the Phael's stay pretty much indoors. And as for the water lily thing, my guess is that most of us will still wait and see how Nick really does with his. Something about all the roots of a plant rotting off and then re-growing gives me pause.

Toward the end of August, my lovely wife Susann is going to start making phone calls to all of you that have not paid your dues yet. Those of you that still need to pay will see a little reminder in the newsletter this month, and if you don't want the phone call, you might just want to get those dues in. She can be pretty persistent—I know—I've been married to her for a really long time.

I moved this piece of the newsletter to this page this month because of the great stuff that folks provided for me. Two culture articles and ribbon judging—lots of good stuff. Anyway, as things ebb and flow over the next year, the newsletter will grow and shrink. I even bought a printer so that we wouldn't have to pay Kinko's to print this thing each month. But, I'm sort of an engineer geek anyway, and that's the way I do things. Anyway, see y'all at the meeting. Now if I can get the \*&%\$#^ duplexer to work everything will be fine.

Ned Patton

**The Refrigerator Door**  
**Orchid Show Calendar**  
August-September, 2004

SBOS Committee Chairs:

Hospitality:  
TBA

Librarian:  
Bernadette Nazareno.....310-538-3280

Raffle Tickets:  
Ted Cornell.....310-327-2826

Refreshments:  
Carolyn Gould.....310-546-2133  
Shirley Marble..... 310-379-0855

Ribbon Judging:  
Jackie and Ted Johnson.....310-541-4185  
Email:.....jackiejohnsonusa@netscape.net  
.....tedinrpv@netscape.net

Property Manager:  
TBA

Meeting Set-up:  
David Okihara.....310-324-3211

AOS Liason:  
Bob Streeter.....310-541-6692

Southland Representative:  
Marilyn Hill.....310-675-0604

Sunshine:  
Kathy West.....310-643-8740



Cat. Jewel Box

Photo Courtesy Ron Henry

**September 25-26**

South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
Judging, Vendors, Supplies  
Come one, come all

**Yes, Folks, this is OUR show**

**9th annual San Diego International  
Orchid Fair**

Friday, October 8 - Sunday, October 10  
AOS/CSA Judging at 10:00 AM, Friday,  
October 8

Exhibit Hall, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy  
Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA.

**Maui Orchid Society County Fair Show**

30 September - 3 October

War Memorial Gym, Wailuku, HI.  
Contact: Ivan Komoda, PO Box 576,  
Makawao, HI 96768; (808) 572-0756;  
orchidhi@maui.net.

**Southern California Orchid Species  
Society Annual Auction**

Sunday, September 12  
Placentia Public Library  
411 E. Chapman Ave., Placentia, CA

**Central Coast Orchid Society  
Show and Sale**

First Presbyterian Church, 227 NE 12th St.,  
Newport, OR.

Contact: Elsie Flower, (541) 265-6674,  
donels@charter.net.

***“The Inflorescence”***

South Bay Orchid Society  
c/o Ned Patton  
21816 Barbara Street  
Torrance, CA 90503

**See you at the meeting this Friday.**

***Ned Patton***