



Phalaenopsis Cacharal
"Roc" HCC/AOS

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.
"Orchids for Amateurs"
Founded July, 1957

The
INFLORESCENCE

January, 2005

Web site: www.southbayorchidsociety.com
www.southbayorchidsocietyshow.com

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

Newsletter Editor:

Ned Patton—310-944-9798
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

January Meeting
Friday, January 21, 2005
8:00 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

January Speaker
Dr. Eric Christensen

We are fortunate to have Dr Eric Christensen speak to us at the Jan 21 meeting. Eric is probably the best know taxonomist in the USA although his fame is global, his articles appear world-wide in orchid magazines of from Australia to Europe and everywhere between going in both directions. He was born in Kentucky, lives in Florida and is a habitual globe trotter seeking new species and analyzing and categorizing existing ones. His major recent enterprise is the rewriting of the 'Encyclopedia of Orchids' by Hawks, he has been active as a taxonomist with the Marie Selby Gardens in Florida. Eric's topic will be "Maxillarias"

Don't miss this exiting speaker

Nick Braemer

Culture Session
7:00 PM

A common problem among orchid growers is how to control pests. We often find ourselves confused as we stand in the insecticide aisle reading labels and trying to figure out what will kill the invading insects and not harm our precious plants. Chuck Spain will be giving us advice on the latest and best products on the market to help us do battle with those pesky pests. Chuck has been licensed by the state of California as a Pest Control Advisor since 1984.

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is surviving all the rain we are having. My plans for caring for my plants during the holiday vacation got washed out. I'm just trying to keep them upright and the cymbidium spikes staked. Even with the wind, the rain, the cold and my neglect they all seem to be doing well on my outdoor patio. This just proves that orchids are not the fragile hard to grow plants that many people think they are.

Thank you May Dobratz for planning the wonderful Holiday Party. The entertainment was delightful and the room looked lovely. Thank you also to Bob Streeter for ordering the plants from Carmela's and to Kathy Synstelién for the word games. I also have to thank everyone who helped set up and to everyone who stayed and helped clean up. This was the most efficient post party clean up I have ever seen.

May has two more events planned for us. The first one is our annual bus trip to the Santa Barbara Orchid Show. This will be on Saturday, March the 5th. The next event is a picnic at Zuma Canyon Orchids in Malibu on April 16th. These are both very popular activities, so mark your calendar and watch for more details.

Plans for our Spring Show and Sale, Rainbow of Orchids on April 9th and 10th, are moving along. The show and sale will be held at Torrance Cultural Arts Center in Torrance, which is our usual location, but this year there will be a change in the rooms that we use. Our display and show room will still be the large meeting room we have used before, but the vendor sales area has been moved due to remodeling delays. This year the vendor sales area will be in the large room called Stage Two, which faces the circular drive. This means that the sales area will be closer to our show area. One slight inconvenience this year is that the vendors will not be able to set up on Friday, but will have to wait until Saturday morning. Our plant registration time will remain the same, which is 4:00pm on Friday.

Our Spring show is our big show and requires more work and volunteers than the Fall show. The committee chairs are already hard at work planning the show. Kathy Synstelién reports that we already have 5 paid vendors signed up. Dr. Bob has laid out the floor plan for the display room and is fine-tuning the judging categories. John Jaacks is busy with the publicity. Please say "yes" when you are asked to help. Among the areas where we will be needing help are hosts and hostesses, ticket sales, and people to bring food to feed our hungry workers. This is going to be another great show and we need your help to make it run smoothly.

*I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting,
Marla Corey*

Buying an Orchid

Ed.: Our feature article this month was written by our illustrious President, Marla Corey. She has some really good tips about how to spend your money. Read on and enjoy!!

Orchid show time is here, which also means orchid buying time is here. As orchid lovers and enthusiasts we are all familiar with that rush that comes over us as we step into a large room filled with blooming orchids for sale. These seductive blooms are all calling to us, and all thoughts of our household budget are forgotten. We can always find room on an already overflowing growing bench for a few more orchids. So we eagerly enter this room of great temptation to fulfill our need for more orchids.

Buying orchids is often an emotional decision to buy something pretty. For those of us who want to build a collection of quality plants that will bloom for years to come, we need to enter cautiously into this frenzied environment. Don't buy the first plant that catches your eye. I recommend walking around the vendor area and looking at what plants are popular this year and what may be new and different. Often more than one vendor will be selling the same plants. This is a good time to compare prices, sizes, and quality of the plants.

Plants are usually priced by pot size; the larger the pot, the larger the plant, the larger the price tag. If the plant has an AOS award it will also affect the price. You will also pay a premium for a plant that is blooming. Buying a large plant with an award and in bloom is the best thing to do if you can afford it. But before you hand over your hard earned money there are few things to consider:

1. Can you provide the proper growing conditions for it thrive? Talk to the vendor about the plant's cultural needs. A reputable vendor wants you to be successful growing and blooming the plants he sells to you. If a plant is warm growing and needs high humidity and you don't have a greenhouse, you probably want to choose a different plant that will thrive in the conditions you do have. Ask the vendor for a recommendation.
2. Are the pseudobulbs full and round with no signs of shriveling? The overall strength of the plant is dependent on the health of the pseudobulbs. Buy the plant with the most pseudobulbs that also shows signs of new growth at the base of the bulbs.
3. If you are able to see the roots, are they full and round with green tips? Orchids often have some dead or dying roots, but the majority should be strong and vigorous.
4. Are there signs of pests or disease? This can be hard to determine, but it is a good idea to pick up the plant and look under the leaves for any signs of pests that may not be easily seen at first glance. Viruses are harder to detect. It is always a good idea to isolate new plants for 2 weeks before introducing them into your collection. Some growers like to repot their new orchids so they can avoid bringing in any pests that may be hiding in the media.

Buying an Orchid—Continued

5. Are the flowers growing upright with proper separation between the flowers? When buying a plant in bloom always look at how the flowers are presented on the plant. They should be upright and evenly spaced so they are not bunched up and crowded. Also look for flower with good substance that will stay in bloom for a while.
6. Is there a nametag and is it easy to read? It is always annoying to bring home a lovely plant, and when you pull out the tag you can't read the name of the plant nor can you remember what it is. Always look at the nametag before leaving the vendor who sold the plant to you. If there is a problem they will make up a new tag for you or at least make sure you have the proper information.

One of the most economical ways to buy orchids is to buy them bare root. This has both pros and cons. They are cheaper for the vendor to sell because they have been pulled out of their pots and packed into boxes by the hundreds, and shipped from countries in Southeast Asia. If you are willing to take the time and look through the boxes you may be able to find some very good plants. While most of the roots will be shriveled or dead, look for strong pseudobulbs with signs of new growth. I bring them home and soak the roots and the base of the pseudobulbs in water to which I have added a few drops of Super Thrive or a spoonful of sugar to rehydrate the plant before I put in a pot. These plants have been without water, nutrients, and sunlight for who knows how long. If the plant survives you will have a wonderful plant, if it doesn't survive you haven't lost a major investment.

Some people think they are saving money by buying seedlings. While small plants may be less expensive they are often several years from blooming size. I really don't have the patience to wait two to three years for a plant to bloom when I can get a blooming size plant for a few dollars more. Another problem is that the smaller the plant the more sensitive it is to environmental changes and grower errors. A larger plant is hardier and has a much better chance of surviving and rewarding you with lovely flowers. Unless you are an experienced grower, I would pass up the seedlings and spend a little more for a larger plant.

I hope these tips on shopping for orchids will make you a more educated and cautious buyer. By choosing the right plants, you will become a more successful orchid grower. Your reward will be healthy blooming plants that you will enjoy for many years.

Marla Corey



Paph. Gratrixianum

Photo Courtesy

Ron Henry

Cym. Dag Dorothy

Photo Courtesy

Ron Henry



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

Next Board Meeting—Jan. 26, 2004

The Board Meeting this month will be held 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.

Editor's Corner

First, I want to remind everyone ONE MORE TIME about the membership directory. Please stop in and pick yours up at the membership table at the meeting this Friday. We have them all labeled so that we don't miss anyone. Save the Society postage—come to the meeting Friday and get your directory.

Now that the holidays are over, and those of us that put on a few pounds are trying (in vain I fear) to work them off, it's time to think about the Spring Show. As Marla announced at the Holiday Party, we finally have a theme for our Spring Show—**Rainbow of Orchids**. The Spring Show is the weekend of April 9 and 10. See Marla and sign up to help out. We won't be able to get in to set up until early Saturday morning, so we'll need all the set-up help that we can get—so talk to Ron Henry also.

We are starting into a new year with the Society, and there are all sorts of things in store for the newsletter in the coming year. I have finally gotten all of the old Dr. Potzalot articles and you will be seeing those in upcoming newsletters. And, for those of you that didn't get the electronic version of the newsletter sent to you, please send me an e-mail so that I can capture your address and add it to my list. There are several members who have told me that they would prefer not to get the paper version of the newsletter, but there are still lots of members who don't have computers and won't ever have them (like my mother—she still likes a phone call from time to time and refuses to buy “one of those things”). So, my plan for the foreseeable future is to continue to print and mail a paper newsletter. Actually, I'm sort of old school also, so as long as I'm doing this, everyone who wants one will get paper from me once a month. But, for those of you that would only like an electronic copy, send me an e-mail and I'll make that happen.

One more editorial note for the new year. This newsletter belongs to the whole society, and it is the way that we communicate with each other. So, if anyone has anything that they are interested in, or have ideas for improvement, I am open to any suggestion that you might want to make. I only ask that you write it down or send it to me in an e-mail. I'm at least as old as you are (on average), and my memory isn't what it used to be.

Lastly, and again, for those of you who didn't see my announcement in the last newsletter, the Santa Barbara Orchid Show is the weekend of March 4-6. Sign up now for the bus trip.

See all of you on Friday, and thanks for all of your support, Ned

The Refrigerator Door
Orchid Show Calendar
January-April, 2005

SBOS Committee Chairs:

Librarian:
Kathy Synstelien310-833-3029

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:
Ron Henry.....310-374-9699

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

Web Site:
Paul Davison.....310-791-6307
E-mail.....inspector@ix.netcom.com

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Show

January 21-23, 2005
War Memorial Auditorium,
800 NE 8th St.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Fascination of Orchids

International Show and Sale
South Coast Plaza
Costa Mesa, CA
February 10, 11,12, and 13, 2005

Pacific Orchid Expo 2005

San Francisco Orchid Society
February 17-20, 2005
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA

Santa Barbara Orchid Show

March 4, 5, and 6, 2005
Earl Warren Showgrounds
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 967-6331

**University of California, Irvine
Winter Orchid Show**

March 12-13
UCI Arboretum
(949) 824-5833

**SBOS Spring Show
“Rainbow of Orchids”**

Yes, This one is ours
April 9 and 10, 2005
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Torrance Blvd. and Madrona St.
Torrance, CA

“The Inflorescence”

South Bay Orchid Society

c/o Ned Patton

21816 Barbara Street

Torrance, CA 90503

See you on Friday at the meeting.

Ned