



Laelia purpurata var carnea Lindley

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.
“Orchids for Amateurs”
Founded July, 1957
The
INFLORESCENCE

June, 2006

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Installation Banquet

Friday, June 16, 2006

7:00 PM (6:30 for Cocktails)

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

Speaker

Carol Seigel

"The Sex Life of Orchids"

Carol Siegel is a member of, and one of the driving forces behind, the Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society. She is a much sought after speaker and has presented to many different Orchid Societies and other organizations. She has also written numerous articles on orchids including one on the Native Orchids Of Nevada, her home state. As she limits here speaking engagements, we are very fortunate and privileged to have been able to secure her services for our October meeting.

Carol's lecture is on "The Sex Life of Orchids", and it will focus on the fascinating world of orchid pollination and orchid pollinators. She'll share the incredible story of how orchids will stop at nothing to get pollinated. They will lie. They will cheat. They will promise and not deliver. If they do deliver, they will give as little as possible.

In an amusing and thoughtful way she'll show the ways in which orchids use color, pattern, movement, fragrance, traps, sexual mimicry, and outright lies to lure pollinators.

Her photographs are stunning and her presentation humorous and entertaining. It is truly a meeting not to be missed.

Nick Braemer

President's Message

June is upon us and its almost the beginning of our new fiscal year. That means that the Installation Dinner is this month, and then we start our new season of meetings, shows, events, parties, picnics—well, you get the picture. This year, however, is a very special year—our 50th. Just imagine, the oldest Orchid Society in this area is 50 years old this year—and that's us. We have some special things planned for the Fall Show and for the Spring Show. In a recent Board Meeting, we took a look at the original papers that were filed with the State of California when SBOS was incorporated, and it looks like we can claim either 2006 or 2007 as our 50th Anniversary. So we decided to make the party last and have both our Fall and our Spring Shows be celebrations of our 50th. You will see more on this in coming Newsletters—I need something to take up this space every month!!

The picnic was loads of fun, and if you didn't go, you will never guess who won the Salsa-Off. And, I'm not telling here. You have to read the rest of this newsletter to find out. Don Goss took some wonderful pictures, and yes, I even put a picture of me in here—doesn't Olga just steal the show completely? We all had a great time, and the weather was absolutely wonderful. That's two years in a row that it has been perfect up in Malibu for the picnic—but then who's counting. And, yes, I'll cook the meat again next year.

So—let's all look forward to this next year. It should be fun since there's lots to do and lots of ways that we can all work together to make it fun for everyone. 50 years—wow!!!

See you at the Banquet or at the meeting in July, Ned

INSTALLATION BANQUET—June 16

6:30 for Cocktails—7:00 for Dinner

Again this year, we will hold our Installation Banquet at the Alpine Village in Torrance. The cost is \$23 per person. Please let Ron Henry know if you are coming—he needs to give the Alpine Village a head count by Tuesday, June 13. The address is:

Alpine Village
833 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA
Call Ron Henry at 310-374-9699

TIME TO REPOT??

By Susann Patton

A question I hear fairly frequently. I tell people the simple method, and that is—when fresh rooting activity is expected (generally in the spring) or better yet—when the new root growth is actually seen. I think repotting should happen generally every one or two years. Fresh rooting activity is best shown by those succulent green root tips, they could appear white, but are generally plump and new looking. Often, the main rooting activity will come from the base of the plant (note your phalaenopsis) or from the developing newest growth (in the case of dendrobiums and other orchids with pseudobulbs, such as cattleyas). Orchid plants need repotting really for one or a combination of two main reasons: Potting mix breakdown, as noted when you see dead roots, or the plant is growing out of and/or over the container edge. In the first case, you may not need a larger pot, just simply replace or change out the growing medium. I have been switching my Phalaenopsis plants from moss to coconut husks over the last two years. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or it could be shifted into a larger pot. Always use fresh growth medium when you repot. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the root system, and not for the top or the foliage. You may want to actually look at your roots on a consistent time frame, say once in the spring. This is where the real health of the plant is seen. You can have nice green foliage and dead or sick roots. Freshly repotted plants should be placed in a shady, humid area until continued new root growth is observed. Or if in doubt, pot in the spring.

LEATHERY ORCHID LEAVES?

By Susann Patton

This was one of my basic problems when I started growing orchids. This, it turns out, is from a lack of water or being dehydrated. The next step is to determine why the plant is not getting sufficient water. Again, look at the roots. If they appear a healthy white or green and are plump, and the medium is in good shape, suspect underwatering. Check the weight of your pot. If the pot is very light then the plant will be dry. I try to water by weight and actually pick up my pots routinely prior to watering. But on the other hand, if the roots are in poor condition, suspect root loss. Check the roots for brown decaying roots. If the plant has no roots, it can not take up any water or feed, no matter how much you give it. In this case, the cause may be root loss due to overwatering or your potting medium has broken down. If it is a new plant it could also be from a recently repotted and poorly established plant. The immediate solution is to raise humidity in the plant's vicinity to reduce stress on whatever roots the plant may have, and then deal with whether to repot or to simply wait until the plant establishes in the fresh medium.

THE WHOLE PACKAGE AND RIBBON JUDGING

By Susann Patton

I occasionally hear from members about Ribbon Judging. Sometimes their plant was not chosen for the blue ribbon and sometimes they are wondering why. I even hear queries about why they did get the blue ribbon and not that gorgeous flower sitting next to their flowers. Simply put—it's the whole package. The plants need a great presentation as well as beautiful flowers. For Ribbon Judging, a set of general criteria is used in judging that is based on the best plant in each class in which it is registered at that particular show. AOS judging compares a plant against the same or comparable plant (such as a cross in the same group) that possibly has a published standard across the globe. Sounds simple? Not quite.

You do not have to be an AOS judge to participate in ribbon judging. Common sense and a good eye for comparison are the major criteria in any ribbon judging. The classification lists are similar plants grouped together helping you make a better decision. That is, species Cattleyas, white Cattleyas no markings, white Cattleyas with colored lip, are all in a group. So we are comparing like flowers for the first, second, and third place ribbons. But the decision of the judges will be determine by more than just pretty flowers.

Now, to begin to look for a ribbon winner, the judge looks for clean flowers without damage, well spaced, good color, good flower count, nicely shaped, pleasingly presented, and so on. If the ribbon judge decides one plant with a very large and nicely shaped flower is as good as a plant with three smaller flowers of approximately the same qualities, they can award two first place ribbons. If there are

only two or three plants registered in a class and any or all of the plants are lacking (such as fading, spotted, droopy, browning, unpleasant shape), then there are not enough good qualities to warrant a first place ribbon, or possibly even a second place ribbon. The judge has the option of bypassing a ribbon, or even a class, for that matter. Remember, awarding a ribbon, whether it be a first place blue or other tells the grower, "you are doing a fine job, keep up the good work".

Here are some tips for getting the most out of Ribbon judging :

1. Make sure your plant is free of insects and pests, such as mealy bugs, scale or sooty mold. Remove slugs or slug trails on the pot, bark or plant. These conditions will usually be found at the time registration, but if a judge sees any of these conditions he will ask to have the plant removed to eliminate contamination of adjacent plants. Avoid embarrassment by presenting clean plants for judging.
2. Remove anything that detracts from the plants' appearance. Use a clean razor blade to remove any dead, dying or broken leaves from the plant. Remove any flowering stems that detract from the picture, like those with damaged from bacteria or pest, and those with dying flowers.
3. As the flower spikes start forming, stake the spikes while buds are still forming. When the buds begin to open do not turn or move the plant. Flowers are sensitive to light and changing the direction of the light will cause the flower to turn toward the light. Phals look their best when all the flowers are pointing in the same direction. Paphs should face straight ahead, not bending down or up toward the ceiling.
4. Clean the exterior of the pot or put the plant inside a decorative container, but not so decorative as to detract from your plant. The flowers and plants should be the main objects noticed foremost.
5. Stake up any errant growing pseudobulbs. Floppy looking Cattleyas are not what the judges like to see. If the bulb is flopped over the flowers will not present themselves the best.
6. Remove the dead paper like covering on Cattleya pseudobulbs. The remaining covering of dead leaves at the base of cymbidium backbulbs should be removed also. This will eliminate the hiding place for scale and fungus, as well as improve the appearance of the plant.
7. Clean the leaves of any hard water stains. A solution of milk and water works nicely. The acid in the milk will dissolve the hard water deposits and the fat in the milk will make the leaves shine slightly. Use a cotton ball, dipping it in the solution and rub gently. Do not use commercial formulas such as Leaf Shine.
8. Hide old looking potting media, possibly with moss or a topping of fresh bark.
9. If you are putting your plant in a show it would be a good idea to water it a day or two before registration. The dryer conditions of an exhibition area will dehydrate the plant quickly and the first thing to go will be the flowers.

Ideally, everyone should be free of bias and prejudice. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. So a good judge is expected to control any bias or prejudice. One of the most important human traits any judge should possess is not only to be ethical but also to have an objective validity to their attitudes and emotions. After all, personalities, attitudes, emotions, experience and knowledge are qualities that make life so interesting, but can make any judging a challenging responsibility and task; but can bring much satisfaction - don't you agree?



That's a Spicy Salsa
you got there George

Sure you can handle
it?

And the Winner Is:

Marla!!!!!!

A good time was had by
all—and Marla reminds us
that she grew up in Texas

SO
Who's gonna challenge
Marla for the title?

Come to the picnic next
year and find out!!!



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.

Next Board Meeting—June 22, 2006

Note the change in date to Thursday. The Board Meeting 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.



Just who is in charge
here?

Certainly not me!!!

People don't really eat at picnics—do they???



**The Refrigerator Door
Orchid Show Calendar
April, 2006—July 2006**

SBOS Committee Chairs:

Librarian:
Kathy Synstelién310-833-3029

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

Refreshments:
Carolyn Gould.....310-546-2133
Shirley Marble.....310-379-0855
Ann McNeely.....310-375-7750

Ribbon Judging:
Joan Bailey..... 310-835-9614
Email:.....jo3bail@aol.com
Jasmine Bashi.....323-299-7770
Beverly Christensen.....323-299-5111

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:
Don Goss.....310-316-3595
E-mail.....webmstr at Istinmedia dot com

June 16, 2006
South Bay Orchid Society
Installation Banquet
Alpine Village
\$23 per person
Call Ron for Reservations
310-374-9699

July 7-9, 2006
26th Annual Santa Barbara International
Orchid Fair
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Fri-Sat: 9-5, Sun 10-4PM

September 3
Central Coast Orchid Society Show
First Presbyterian Church of Newport,
227 NE 12th St.
Newport, OR.
Contact: Elsie Flower, 557 NW 54th Ct.,
Newport, OR 97365; (541) 265-6674.

2006 Southland Orchid Show
"All Hallowed Orchids"
Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens,
October 20-22, 2006.
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108
(626) 405-2100

“The Inflorescence”

South Bay Orchid Society

c/o Ned Patton

21816 Barbara Street

Torrance, CA 90503

See You Friday, June 16 at the Banquet

Ned