



Onc ampliatum majus

This species is found in the hot lowlands of south America growing as an epiphyte in the forest.

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

“Orchids for Amateurs”

Founded July, 1957

The

INFLORESCENCE

November, 2006

Web site: www.southbayorchidsociety.com

November Meeting:
Friday, November 21, 2006

8:00 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

November Speaker—Dr. Merle Robboy

Dr. Robboy is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist by day and has been an orchid grower by night for the last 25 years. He has been an avid culture enthusiast of the orchids of Central and South America for a very long time, and has been speaking about them professionally for the last 15 years. He is past President of both the Species Society and the Newport Harbor Orchid Society, and the Dahlia Society judge to boot. He will be talking to us this month on the orchids of Costa Rica. And, he has a handout that is very informative—don't miss it.

Nick

Culture Session—7:00 PM

Dr. Robboy will also be giving a culture session this month at our meeting. He will talk to us about growing orchids outside in Southern California without the benefits of additional heat. Don't miss it.

Norman's Orchids (www.Orchids.com) will be providing the plant table this month. We will have a selection of all kinds of plants, some even in bloom or bud. If you want to have something in particular picked up let me know by Wednesday. Ned

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President's Message

Hello again, and welcome to November. All of the goblins are hopefully gone, and we can look forward to Turkey Day. I don't know about all of you, but this seems to me to be the busiest time of the year. We'll see how it all turns out.

There are a number of things that are coming up in the not too distant future, and planning for our events for next year is well under way. The Holiday Party is again up at the gardens this year—on December 15. We have the South High Singers again this year for entertainment, so it ought to be a really fun party. And, I will smoke a couple of turkeys again this year so the bird ought to be tasty. I hope to see all of you there.

Planning for the Spring Show is well under way, and we have decided to add a number of things to the show this year. We will have food vendors in the center court for our attendees to try to keep people there longer. And, we are going to have the first ever SBOS Art Show. So, the theme of the Spring Show is "The Art of Orchids". See the announcement later in this newsletter. Anyone who has original art is welcome to display it at the show. Bobbie Davison has been kind enough to take on the job of arranging the display.

One note to some of our newer members about bringing in plants to the meetings. I would like to encourage everyone to bring in their plants that are in bloom or that may be in some trouble. If you have owned the plant for more than three months and it's in bloom it can be judged in the ribbon judging. If it is newer to you, you can still bring it in and put it in the exhibit only section. And, if you have one in a little trouble, bring it in and let some of the experts diagnose your problem and point you in the right direction. We want to see more plants at the meetings.

See you there, Ned



Blc Penny Spots

Blc Waianae Leopard x C Penny Kruda

Owner: Joan Bailey

Photographer: Don Goss

Membership Conner-Please warmly welcome our newest members:

Kiko Suzukawa who was brought to our meeting by another new member, Patty Nash

Wyman Wong saw our fall show and thought she might learn more about growing orchids.

4N - WHAT IS A TETRAPLOID ORCHID?

Susann Patton

Please note the last August edition of the newsletter. Though I attempted to explain this, I have received several more questions, so I will try to augment that article. Remember this topic is a whole branch of science all by itself, and in fact the world's food crops depends heavily on this science. In that larger scheme, orchids are just a fascination for man, so here goes. Flowers and animals are composed of two sets of chromosomes found within each cell. One set is from our mother and one set from our father. This is referred to as diploid, meaning two copies of the chromosomes. These chromosomes have on them codes for our genes. These genes are what actually gives my dog brown eyes. A dog with brown eyes, may have genes on their chromosomes for blue eyes, but the brown eyes are the genes that are being expressed, thus those loving brown eyes looking back at me. Wolves and dogs are all the same creatures, but *wow* the different expressions of their genes is incredible. Orchids are mostly the same, but man has developed special breeding techniques such that some orchids now can have double sets of chromosomes, or four copies of chromosomes rather than the usual two sets. These four sets are referred to as "tetraploid". My dog is "diploid" (2 chromosome sets) and now a lot of orchids are bred to be tetraploid (4 sets). Most all of our crop food has been bred to be tetraploids. Once you use the special techniques for creating tetraploids, you can breed them together and get more tetraploids. The term 'N' is a shorthand notation. 4N means tetraploid. 2N means diploid. Our last speaker used the term '4N' several times in his talk about breeding mini Cattleyas. When you mix 4N and 2N together you get 3N, or three sets of chromosomes. Note that 3N crosses tend to produce very low yields and or may be sterile— thus the seedless watermelon and now bedding plants that don't invade your garden. This is not a problem usually seen with orchids though.

Why 4N? The major reasons for breeding toward tetraploids in orchids is to increase flower size (and some have gotten very large). It is also to obtain a more standard flower shape. Increased flower count and better presentation are additional breeding goals. Stronger seedlings with fewer months to flower are traits that are very attractive to breeders. For example tetraploid red types of Phalaenopsis being bred in Taiwan bloom within 2 years, rather than the usual 2-1/2 or 3 years. There are other physical trait changes that we won't notice, such as more energy producing cells in the leaves, which equates to greener leaves and changes in seed production. There some other changes that we might notice, such as thicker leaves, slower growth and shorter flower stems. The breeders have been working around some of these problems, as noted with the Red Phalaenopsis, which is everywhere (from being cloned), inexpensive (fast to flower) and now with long inflorescences that branch. But you may still have are some orchid lines that still grow very slowly, these are the earlier breeding lines that still have the older physical traits. And now some lines that have overcome these limitations. Species have not been manipulated by man, so once you get used to their growing patterns, that is all there is to it. Its another complicated layer in the breeding of orchids. As you grow different breeding lines, you may start to see some of these differences, but it will take a learning curve. This subject is much, much more complicated than I have presented here. Let me know if it helped.

These are two flowers pictures just on the right were taken off of Normans' Orchids web site (www.Orchids.com). The one on the left is very large; being (3") and appears to be a 4N. The one on the right may or may not be 4N, but its size is a more normal size, being about half as large. These both are considered fast vigorous growers, which is why I



suspect they both are 4N, but maybe not. In the past we have seen Odontoglossums (or other genera) mixed in to enlarge flowers and then the fastest or largest bloomer gets cloned. Each plant will have a history of its breeding line which will be available to you, even if you have to dig some. Keep the questions coming. Thanks to Norman for his information and pictures.

C. Hardyana
Owner: Thiamina Haque
Photography: Don Goss

SOMETIMES SURVIVING IS NOT SO HARD (part 2 of the snail odysseys) ***Susann Patton***

The group has become quite familiar with each other. They should be, as they have been forced to hang out together now for about thirty days with only water for survival. I can't say they are a very friendly bunch though, as there are only a few of them bunched up in groups, unlike what you would expect to see with us; where groups form up easily. Maybe that's what being a hermaphrodite does for you. But the survival has been pretty good. Of the 35 snails put into experimental cavity only eight smaller guys (24%) have died. Their shells have become softer, but otherwise they appear to be just fine. You didn't think I would feed them, did you? They are here for science, not for pleasure. Sorry, no resort time for them.

So back out to my garden goes my trusty snail gatherer, as with each trial, I want to have the same number of hungry guys available in a set space. This is science after all. A few of the softies were kept to see if their food drive would make them more aggressively cross barriers, just in case we needed that.

Again, the same tasty bait was used; lettuce. This time the test material was encircling that tasty bait. The first tester circle was horticultural lime, as I have read that they will not cross lime. Their moist body chemistry is slightly acidic, which is why 10% ammonia sprayed on them is so instantaneously deadly to them. As soon as they come into contact with it, you can see an the acid-base like reaction. The second ring used this time is diatomaceous earth, which is a naturally occurring fluffy white powder. It is very light weight, due to it being very porous. It is typically made up of mostly silicon (85%), but also some sodium, magnesium and iron. It consists of fossilized remains of diatoms. These were a type of hard-shelled algae at one time. The idea is that even though this appears as a powder to us, it is actually tiny sharp shards of cutting blades to them. This provides at least an uncomfortable environment for them and at best will damage their soft moist bodies. It took less than ten minutes for at least one snail to cross each ring. We went to bed feeling that this might be a bust as well. This was especially true since there seemed to be an attempt to build a 'snail bridge' over the diatomaceous earth, with guys climbing over the backs of others in an effort to reach the lettuce. It's a snail eat snail world out there at night.

What a mess. In the morning the diatomaceous earth was definitely spread about and evidence was still clinging to a good majority of the slimy guys, I mean our volunteers (Whops, prejudices are showing. No place in hard science for personal emotions). The tasty treat remained mostly intact. One guy had pulled a small piece out beyond the powder ring and was munching way, but otherwise the majority of it was still intact.

The lime ring was still very neat. All of the tasty treat remained. Nobody was anywhere near it. By morning they had all retreated and were scattered about on the walls, just as usual. But alas, the weather turned hot (>90 degrees) and shells were dropping all over everything. Thus we may need to re-do this run, since the opportunity to consume the lettuce needs to be done by a set number of lettuce munchers, as that is the end point and now we are now definitely short. Stay tuned.



Phal New Gold Don Goss Owner and Photographer

October Ribbon Judging results

Oncidium	Advance Amateur	Exhibitor	Judge
1st	unknown	Don Goss	Thamina Haque
2nd	unknown	Don Goss	
3rd	Sharry Baby	Bernadette Nazareno	
Other Genera			
1st	Zygo. Red Vale 'Firekiss'	Don Goss	
2nd	Masdevella 'Peach Fuzz'	Jim Rowley	
3rd	Paph glacophyllum x dianthum	Jim Rowley	
Cattleya			
1st	Blc Bryce canyon 'Splendifrous	Bernadette Nazareno	Marc Massari
2nd	Blc. Loic McNeil	Bernadette Nazareno	Cultural
3rd	Lc Gila Wilderness 'Nippon Treasure'	Thamina Haque	
Phalaenopsis			
1st	Dtps. King Shiangs Rose x Happy Valentine x Taide Happy Eagle	Jim Rowley	
2nd	Phal. Black Ball "Lucky star"	Thamina Haque	
3rd	Dortitia pulcherrima LV 45 x Gundlach	Thamina Haque	
Cymbidiums			
	Amateur		Marc Massari
1st	Earlissue 'Paddy'	SandyHammersmark	
Dendrobium			
1st	unknown	SandyHammersmark	
Odontoglossum			
1st	Brsdm. Shooting Star "Maui Meteor"	SandyHammersmark	
2nd	Unknown	SandyHammersmark	

Wanted all flowers. New members please bring in what you have just acquired-you might have some questions and we all like to see what your growing. Maybe these can't be judged yet, but we can sure help you get started in that direction. Don't be shy, bring it in for 'show and tell'.



IS THERE A PREACHER IN THE HOUSE?

Today as I was misting, I noticed something hanging around in one of my Epi's. I moved in to get a closer look and . . . what in blue blazes?! I've only seen these on the Discovery Channel,



but never in the wild. Don

People, Places and Things (Like Photos)

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

Meets on the third Friday of each month
Culture Session at 7:00 p.m.
Ribbon Judging at 7:15 p.m.
General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Next Board Meeting—November 22 2006

The Board Meeting this month will be held at the Levy Center, Torrance Adult School
The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

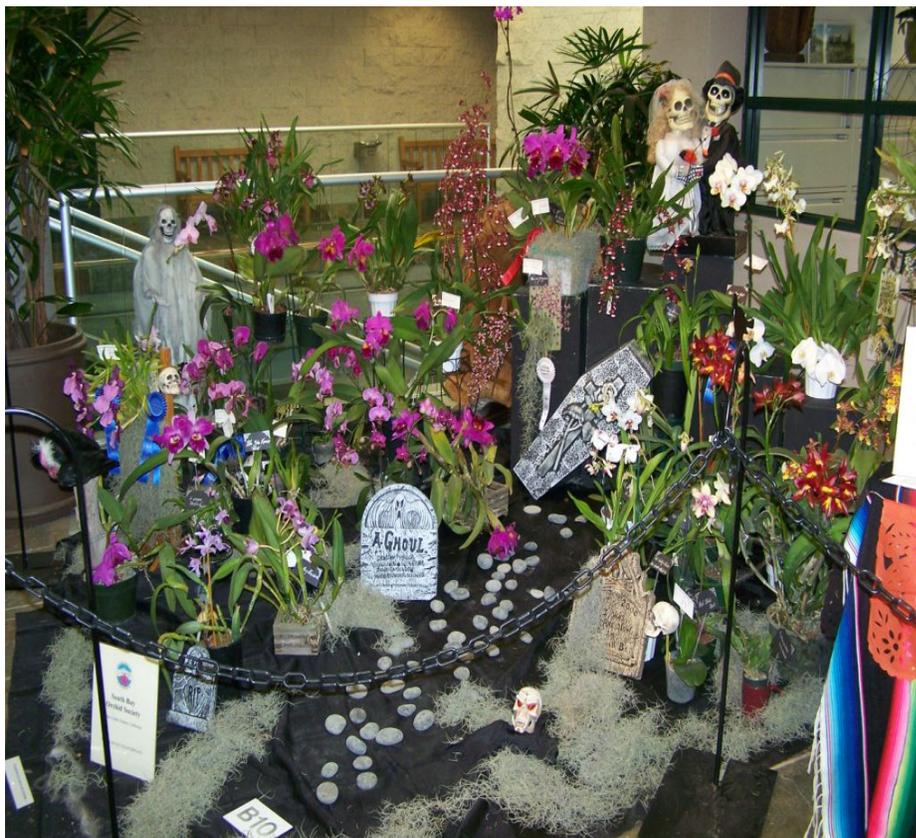
Show Committee—An organizational meeting will be held at the Garden on December 5. Contact Marc or Marla if you're interested in helping out. Everybody is welcome. We need your ideas.



ALL YOU PAINTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND OTHER FINE ARTIST-listen

UP. Our theme for this year's spring show is "The Art of Orchids." In keeping with that theme, we will have a non-judged orchid art show in combination with the orchid displays. The artwork will be displayed in the main hall with the orchid displays on either easels or hung on panels. The artwork will likely be placed between the displays around the perimeter of the hall. For your work to be considered, your art will need to be submitted to Bobbie Davidson.

If you have something that you would like to offer for display, please contact Bobbie at (310) 791-6307.



Our display at the Huntington Show got us a third place. We had a great selection of flowers from society members. I enjoyed seeing everybody's displays, but was amazed at how elaborate some contestants got with props. I should have known, as everybody loves to decorate at Halloween. I hope some of you got a chance to see the show. Anybody interested in helping put together a display please contact Joan Bailey 310-835-9614. It is loads of fun and this next time we could win a cash award for our society. The theme for the next display will be "Orchid Mardi Gras" at "The Fascination

of Orchids", down in Orange County. Come have some fun. Bring your competitive spirit, and enjoy the comradely between societies. Many thanks to those who contributed flowers for the display.

**The Refrigerator Door
Orchid Show Calendar**
November 2006—December 2006



SBOS Committee Chairs:

Librarian:
Mary Glass.....310-320-8600

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

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

Ribbon Judging:
Joan Bailey..... 310-835-9614
Email:.....jo3bail@aol.com
Thamina Haque..... 310-374-9898
Marc Massari.....310-220-3507

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

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

AOS Liason:
Joan Bailey.....310-541-6692

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

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

Web Site:
Don Goss.....310-316-3595
. . . . orchids at southbayorchidsociety dot com



**South Coast Orchid Society
Auction 2006**

November 27, 2006
6PM viewing, starts at 6:30PM
Whaley Park
5620 Alherton Street
Long Beach, CA

Open Houses
December 2nd and 3rd

Sunset Valley 8AM-5PM
www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com
Vista, CA Phone (760) 639-6255

Casa De Las Orquideas 10AM-4PM
www.orquideas.com
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA, 92075,

**The Orchid Society of Santa Barbara's
Annual Exhibition and Sale**

December 9 and 10
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta del Sol Road
Santa Barbara, California 93105

“Meet the Breeders”
An orchid educational event and plant sale

Terry Root
Frank Smith
Fred Clarke
Loren Batchman
Saturday, December 30, 2006
The womans club
3320 Monroe Street
Carlsbad, CA
7\$ admission
Bruce Kidd 951-600-1393

“The Inflorescence”

South Bay Orchid Society

c/o Ned Patton

21816 Barbara Street

Torrance, CA 90503

See You Friday, November 17

Ned