



Cym. Everett Stockstill 'Spots Aplenty'

Photo: Don Goss

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

“Orchids for Amateurs”

Founded July, 1957

The

INFLORESCENCE

January, 2007

Web site: www.southbayorchidsociety.com

Friday, January 19, 2007

8:00 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

This months Speaker is Dr. Leonid Averyanox.

Dr. Leonid Averyanov is the orchidologist at the St. Petersburg Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The institute has one of the largest herbarium collections in the world, including tropical orchids. Close cooperation between botanists at Komarov and their counterparts at the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources in Hanoi, Vietnam started in 1963. From 1979 to 1991, Komarov Institute has organized and funded yearly expeditions to study the flora of Vietnam. Dr. Averyanov was a major participant in these expeditions. He collected herbarium specimens, and described many new orchid species. Among them are *Paphiopedilum helenae* named for his wife, and *Paphiopedilum hiepii* named for his long time friend and traveling companion, Dr. Nguyen Tien Hiep of the Vietnamese Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources.

We know very little about the rich flora of North Vietnam. After the war, Vietnam has been closed to western explorers for many years. The area is mountainous and has few roads. Many orchid habitats are inaccessible, except on foot during dry season. Prior to the late 1990's Dr. Averyanov was one of a few foreign botanists allowed access for exploration of North Vietnam's flora, making his research invaluable to orchidologist and botanists not only in Russia, but the entire world. He has published many articles in the *Orchids*, the *Magazine of the American Orchid Society*. His book, "Slipper Orchids of Vietnam" with an introduction to the flora of Vietnam was published in 2003 by Timber Press. This is a valuable resource on the slipper orchids as well as their habitat, geography, climate and companion plants.

When academic research funding became scarce in Russia, Averyanov was forced to turn to other sources. Since 1991, National Geographic, AOS, and several orchid groups including the San Diego County Orchid Society have funded his explorations. Let's hope that such support continues.



Paphiopedilum helenae A delightful miniature species discovered by Dr. Averyanov and named after his wife. The flowers are on average smaller than 2 inches and the plants make small clumps. You can easily have a plant with 4 or 5 flowers in a 3.5 inch pot

South Bay Orchid Society Board:

President:

Ned Patton ————— 310-944-9798

Email: ————— epatton1@earthlink.net

1st Vice President:

Nick Braemer ————— 310-560-4384

Email: ————— orchidnick@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President:

Ron Henry ————— 310-374-9699

Email: ————— orkidguy@earthlink.net

Treasurer:

Jim Rowley ————— 310-376-3542

Email: ————— jrowley@alum.nu.edu

Secretary:

Thamina Haque ————— 310-374-9898

Email: ————— fororchids@netscape.net

Membership:

Susann Patton ————— 310-944-9798

Email: ————— slpatton@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor:

Ned Patton ————— 310-944-9798

Email: ————— epatton1@earthlink.net

Past President :

Marla Corey ————— 310-833-1918

Email: ————— marlacorey@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster/Publicity:

Don Goss ————— 310-316-3595

Email: ————— webmstr@1stinmedia.com

Intersociety Relations:

Joan Bailey ————— 310-835-9614

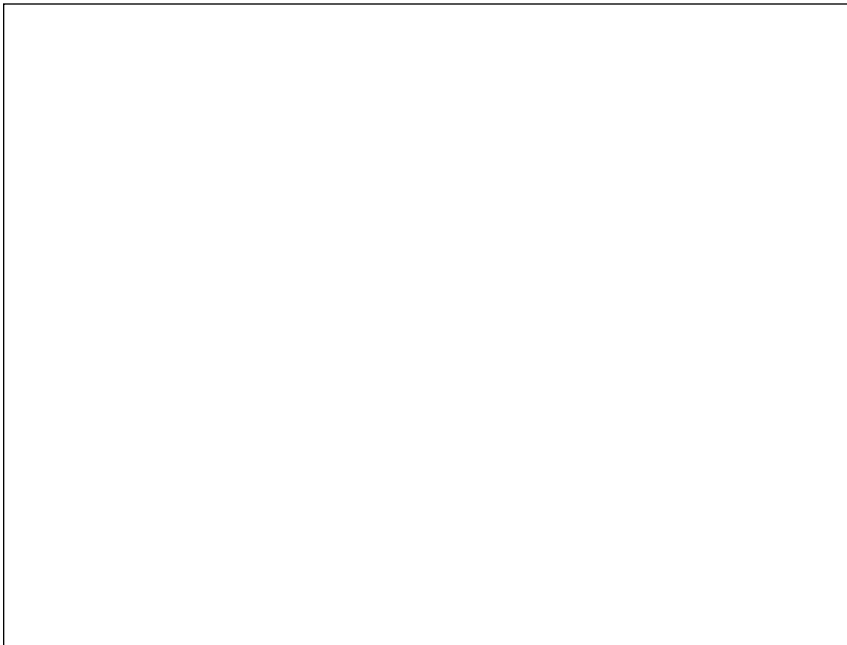
Email: ————— jo3bail@aol.com

President's Message

See you at the next meeting January 19, 2007

We thank the Paphiopedilum Guild for bringing him to this country in 1997, 2000, and now January 2007. The Guild has been a great supporter, but it can not bear the cost alone. If your society is interested in contributing to Dr. Averyanov's future work or helping defray the cost of this trip, let the Paph Guild know.

Ned



2007 Show
Committee Chairs:

“The Art of Orchids”

Marla Corey ————— 310-833-1918
Email: —marlacorey@sbcglobal.net
Marc Massari ————— 310-220-3507
Email —marc@streamsintl.com



Art Exhibit Guidelines

The theme for this year's spring show is "The Art of Orchids".

In keeping with that theme, we will have an 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. This art show will be for exhibit only and will not be judged.

Submissions may be painting, drawings, photographic art, or needlework.

The art must be orchid themed.

The artwork need not be recent work.

The artwork must have been produced by you.

The artwork must be presentation ready.

The artwork is for exhibit only, nothing will be marked for sale.

For your work to be eligible for exhibit, contact Marla Corey by February 10th with the number of items for exhibit and the size of the items..

South Bay Or-

Our spring show, "The Art of Orchids", will be here soon and it is time for everyone to sign up to help. This is a large show and requires a lot of volunteers to help it run smoothly. There are lots of different jobs to choose from, so sign up for something that suits your abilities. This is a fun event and a great time to get to know fellow society members. We will have sign up sheets at our January meeting or you can phone our committee chairs directly.

Set-up: This involves helping get supplies out of storage and bringing them to the Cultural Arts Center. Help is also needed in setting up the show room and draping the tables beginning at 3:00 pm on Friday. Tables also need to be set up in the vendor areas beginning at 3:00pm. Call Ron Henry at (310) 374-9699.

Plant registration: Plant registration will take place on Friday beginning at 4:00pm. This important job involves the organization of paperwork of the plants entered for judging. Call Marla Corey at (310) 833-1918.

Ticket sales: Two people will be assigned in shifts to sell tickets at the door. This is a good job for those who prefer a seated job. Call Mary Glass at (310) 320-8600.

Host and Hostess: People are needed through out the show hours to talk to our guests and answer questions they may have. This also involves manning the exits and staffing the plants hotel where purchased plants are held. Call Marilyn Hill at (310) 675-0604 or Sue Estes at (310) 377-0773.

Food: Lots of food is needed to feed our hungry volunteers and vendors during the show. Please sign up to bring food. Call Shirley Marble at (310) 643-5740 or Carolyn Gould at (310) 546-2133.

Take down: Will take place right after the show closes. We need everyone to pitch in and help this job go quickly. Ron also needs help getting things back to our storage locker on Monday.

Publicity: Don Goss needs people to make phone calls and help with contacting newspapers to get the word out about our show. There also will be posters and flyers at our meeting for distribution in your neighborhoods to let your friends and neighbors know about our show. Call Don at (310) 316-3595.

Art Exhibit: In addition to our orchid show we would like to show case the artists in our society to promote our theme, "The Art of Orchids". Information on the art exhibit can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bring in your blooming orchids for judging. Now is the time to start preparing your plants for the show. Your plants need to be clean and free of pests and diseases. Don't worry if you don't understand how to register your plants, there will be plenty of registration volunteers to help you. We need everyone's blooming orchids to make this another outstanding show.

If you have any questions give me a call. Marla Corey (310) 833-1918

GROW YOUR ROOTS -

Susann Patton

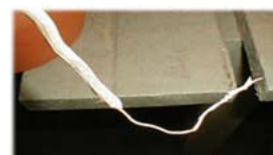
I was at a meeting the other night and our speaker kept saying “grow healthy roots and you will get healthy blooms”. For several months now I have been focused on healthy roots. When I get a new plant I will commonly inspect the roots right away; repotting it in fresh growing medium as soon as I can. I have become a convert to the ‘Good roots mean a good plant and good blooms’ way of thinking. No matter what medium you choose for your orchids, you need healthy roots. Let me share some of my thinking with you on epiphytic orchids (Cattleya, phalaenopsis and other non terrestrial types).

An aerial root is not just a root (Epiphytic, Arboreal or air roots) -Orchids are different

Roots regulate the flow of water and nutrients into the plant. Aerial roots are also involved in gas exchange and photosynthesis. In other words roots are responsible for some very important functions required for living. There are only a few other functions that are of equal importance in terms of survival One is to photosynthesize, which mostly occurs in the leaves and creates fuel to power the plant. The other is to reproduce which includes flowering. While we enjoy the flowers, you can understand why the roots in good health are so critical.

Orchids developed in an epiphytic environment; using other plants for their physical support. Many are found at the tops of forests, with their roots swaying in the breeze. They manage to survive this environment by taking up water very rapidly when it is available and then by restricting loss of water during dry periods. The effectiveness of the exchanges of water, nutrients and gases is determined by the health of the root cells. Root cells move water and mineral in two ways. Water enters the outer cells (velamen) of the root rapidly, where it moves freely into the living root and up to the plant. It is thought that as the plant releases water from its leaves, the water in the roots is pulled upward. Nutrients and minerals are actively transported by the cells into the root, which is then transported upward for use in the plant. Carbon dioxide is very soluble in water and is combined with the water. It is used to make sugars for the plant with the subsequent release of water and oxygen into the air as byproducts of photosynthesis.

So what is the appearance of a healthy root? It will be plump, a silvery-green or grey in color, which gets greener when wet. It will be even in diameter with no pinching or cracking on the surface. It will be firm to the touch, much like a carrot. As noted above orchids have a survival trick. Aerial roots are multi-layered, with a sponge-like covering called a **velamen** (ve-Lay-men) that helps to provide support, prevent water loss, and is adapted to absorb and store water and nutrients from its surroundings. The velamen has many tiny holes into which the water flows with ease. It engorges with water very quickly. When they dry out they are more white in appearance and shrunken. It is thought that when the plant is dry the white empty velamen cells scatter the light that might fall on them, preventing photosynthesis and its accompanying water loss in the roots. The shrinking closes off the open holes, holding in any water present. The ‘real’ root tissue is under several layers of cells making up velamen. It appears as the ‘cord’ in the middle of the plumper root. Dead roots will appear brown, mushy and the velamen will have collapsed leaving only the ‘cord’ hanging where the whole root used to be. The functionality of the root cells is not ‘all or nothing’, but is a matter of degree. In the picture above there may be a 50% loss in root function, or maybe less. The root itself may still function, but is compromised and lacks the storage of velamen for water and nutrients, which would normally allow extended contact with water, nutrients and gases stored in the velamen.



Repotting and Root Growth. Again- those roots.

When repotting always make sure that new roots are **actively growing**. The established roots grew under conditions where they made the most of what was available to them at that time. They can not accommodate change once they have grown into a medium. But we repot because the medium changes over time as it breaks down, and it can become deadly to the plant. This is because as the medium decomposes it will retain more moisture and will compact. Excess water destroys the velamen by retaining too much water and allowing invading bacteria and fungus to take over, rotting the velamen. As it compacts it now hinders the movement of gases (carbon dioxide) needed by the plant to make sugars. Carbon dioxide that is unable to escape because of destroyed velamen now mixes with the water around the roots forming strong acids. This kills plant tissues very quickly. Repotting is done while there is active growth because roots cannot adapt to a new medium either. Rather they are required to grow into the new medium now provided. This went against my instincts for growing other types of

plants, where potting soil is potting soil and you don't see the dying and re-growth of roots. Plants with fibrous

Roots basically are always surrounded by moisture, even if only on a microscopic level. Orchids developed to take advantage of rushing water that stops as fast as it started. Most orchids need to have dry roots for a few days. Drying of the roots will not cause any damage, and they can go longer with out water if the humidity is high. Some orchids require this drying more strongly than others.

Roots grown in media (pots) are physiologically different from those developed in open air. Those grown in the open have thicker velamen and contain chlorophyll. This is why they turn green when being watered. Roots grown inside media are whiter, lacking any chlorophyll and have thinner velamen for less water storage. When aerial roots come into contact with a surface, they will adapt specifically so that the cellular function is optimized. The velamen, for example will develop small hairs on the side near the bark for anchoring, and thin on this side in order to pick up water faster. The top side of the root will become thicker for more mechanical protection and water loss. Orchid roots developing inside the media (pots) will also develop roots with a modified thin velamen layer. The whole root will have a thinner velamen all around, although will still have some hair growth, as seen by roots clinging to bark or charcoal pieces. Roots growing in water (semi-hydroponics) will adapt with specialized velamen for a water environment much the same way. But when you change the growing environment, new roots will be required. So a root is not just a root. Orchid roots do adapt by developing specialized cells based the environment they grown in. Orchid roots will try to adapt physically, chemically and biologically and they do that by growing new roots. New roots are required for any change.

After repotting, keep the plant in a low stress situation. This means less light and cooler temperatures for 4-6 weeks after repotting so the plant can re-establish itself. This is because the new roots have not grown enough to fully support the plant, and the old roots are not working at 100%. This is especially important with drastic changes in media, such as bark to mounting, or into an inert media or into semi-hydroponics.

See a root is not just a root. It's a whole lot more and in fact is one of the most important things to monitor with your plants if you want them to product fantastic blooms.

Susann Patton

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Alas, the snail sagas. Either the word has gotten out that I am a serial snail torturer, or they have gone into hibernation due to the cold spell. My snail hunter could only find two in my gardens. Either way the experiments will have to be postponed until they return. Somehow I am confident they will, after all I have a lot of cymbidium buds waiting to be stripped.

Susann

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 24 , 2006

The Board Meeting in January 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 January 9th. Contact

Marc or Marla if you're interested in helping out.

Everybody is welcome. *We need your ideas!*

Sunshine-Kathy West

Ann McNeeley is recovering well from her operation. Her strength is slowly returning. Ann's spirits really soared as she read the accumulated cards, letters, e-mails, and phone call from many of you and sends heart felt thanks.

Sylvia Bosshard is recovering from foot surgery, and we may not see her for up to six months while she heals. Feel free to send her some cheer.

New Mem- bers

Please warmly welcome the following new members who joined us in November.

CHECK IT OUT

Did you know that SBOS has a pretty good library of orchid books? We do, and the books range from beginning books for folks that are new to this hobby (like new members?) to more advanced books for those that caught this disease some time ago, and don't have any intention of shaking it.

Anyone interested in checking out an SBOS library book please contact Mary Glass at one of our regular meetings, since the library is at the Gardens

**The Refrigerator Door
Orchid Show Calendar**
January 2007—March, 2007

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 Liaison:
Joan Bailey.....310-835-9614

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

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

Web Site:
Don Goss.....310-316-3595
E-mail.....webmstr@1stinmedia.com



Let us know if you would prefer your newsletter by email only. It saves on the cost of stamps and the pictures are in color. Thanks.

January 17, 2007

Orange County Orchid Society Auction
7:00 p.m. Yorba Linda Public
Library Community Room
18181 Imperial Highway
Yorba Linda, California
714-996-1155

**February 9, 10, and 11
26th Annual Fascination of Orchids**

Orange County Fair & Exposition Center,
Costa Mesa
\$3 One Day Admission
\$5 Unlimited Weekend Pass
Call (949) 293-3095
www.ocorchidshow.com

**WE NEED YOUR ORCHIDS—PLEASE
HELP US BY SENDING THEM FOR
EXHIBIT IN THE SBOS DISPLAY**

**For the SBOS Display
call Joan Bailey at (310) 835-9614**

**March 3 and 4
South Bay Orchid Society
Spring Orchid Show and Sale**

YES, THIS IS OUR SHOW FOLKS!!!

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

**March 16-18
61st Annual Santa Barbara International
Orchid Show**

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Call (805) 969-5746
or e-mail sborchid@west.net

**March 23 - 25, 2007
61st Annual San Diego County Orchid
Society Orchid Show,**

"Orchids: Varied Treasures"
Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley
1895 Camino Del Rio South
San Diego, 92108.

“The Inflorescence”

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



“The Art of Orchids”

**See You Friday, January 19, 2007
7:00 P.M.
South Coast Botanic Garden**

Ned