



Milt. Augres 'Trinity' AM/RSH

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

"Orchids for Amateurs"

Founded July, 1957

The

INFLORESCENCE

JUNE, 2007

Friday, June 15, 2007

6:30 PM

Ports 'O Call Restaurant

Berth 76 Ports of Los Angeles

San Pedro, California

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*We request the honor
of your presence at the
Installation Banquet
for our newest South Bay
Orchid Society Board Members*

*Friday, the fifteenth of June two
thousand and seven at
six thirty o'clock in the evening*

RSVP to RON HENRY

Tickets are \$30.00 per person

Free parking

President's Message

Last month I wrote (and I quote myself here): “So, what about the future. Where are we headed? What do we do?”

So, where are we headed? I told you that I have my ideas, and so I guess I better write them down, since this is the last time that I have the bully pulpit—as it were.

Like I said in the last newsletter, the state of the Society is GOOD. We have a good Board, with good ideas who are all working hard to make the Society better. And, we have enough of a nest egg to permit us to invest a little bit in the future. But, the only reason that we have the nest egg is because of the conservative fiscal management of the Society's funds.

Most of you know by now that the orchid business is changing dramatically. The best evidence we've seen of this we discovered at the picnic. George Vasquez has torn down his breeding greenhouse because he doesn't breed orchids here in Southern California any more. George gave us a lecture about how his business has changed just in the last few years. The big growers are now overseas, and they supply plants to all of the major garden center retailers in the country now.

So, can our Society stay the same as it has been over the last few years and still survive? Probably not. Orchids have gone from being exotic (expensive) to being something people buy in bloom at Trader Joe's and when the flowers fall off they get thrown away. And, as all of you know, you can find good stuff at Lowe's and Home Depot. Some of those plants are better than a lot of the things that were show quality 30 years ago.

Just like the orchid business, our Society is changing. When Susann and I joined there were very few new members. Most of the folks that we met had been with the Society for some time. Now, more than 3/4 of our members have joined the Society just in the last few years. Mostly are amateur orchid growers, with just a small but growing number of plants. Our new members have joined because they want to learn something about these beautiful plants—how not to kill them and maybe how to get them to bloom again.

Last month I mentioned that the Board is considering changing our corporate status from a 501.c.7 to a 501.c.3 organization. All that this change means is that we go from one type of non-profit to another. But in the larger scheme of things a 501.c.3 organization is organized for the “Public Good” whereas we are organized now for our own benefit. It is time to make this change. We already act as if we were a “Public Benefit Corporation” (California definition) with our shows and educational outreach, so we ought to become one.

See you at the Banquet—Ned

There will be no culture session for this month. Since there is no meeting, but there will be plenty of cultural information given at the Banquet Talk.
The banquet will be a Buffet with a large selection of entrees, including fish and several kinds of meats and vegetarian.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING IN YOUR BLOOMING PLANTS FOR CENTER PIECES.
Dress should dressy—casual or better, but remember the restaurant is right on the water, so it may be little cooler in the evening. Please no corkage as there is an open bar available—they are very strict about this. Driving directions are on page 7. Hope to see ya there!

Did you know that we have celebrity in our midst. *Peggy Wormington* has been chosen as a successor to Ric Dykzeul as instructor for the gardening classes at the South Coast Botanical Gardens. Peggy is considered very knowledgeable about horticulture and a class act as a teacher, with a natural warm style. Please give her an affectionate congratulations when you see her. Way to go Peggy!! Peggy has been an active member with South Bay Orchid Society since August 2005. She started showing her orchids with us right a way and has been doing a great job.

PICNIC FUN MAY 19, 2007

Left-Our host at the annual picnic; George Vasquez. Thanks for all the fun George. Below is George lecturing and some of our members



Having fun shopping and eating. Ron Henry, Frank Hayen and Dave De Young.

Winner of the Salsa cook off- We were all winners this year!! Everybody loved the food and went home with new plants and flowers.

MEMBERSHIP—Speaking of having so much fun.....With June brings that time of year when we need to renew our memberships again. I have included forms to mail back or you may come a meeting and renew. Dues are the usual \$17.00 for a house hold. Any and all questions are welcome, just give me a call: Susann 310-944-9798 or email me at slpatton@earthlink.net

Pansies in the greenhouse

(hint this has nothing to do with buyers at the picnic)

For me I always look forward to the late summer blooming Miltoniopsis. I have had luck growing these orchids and thought great, I will brush up on their culture and background and pass along the information to you. So of course the starting point for me was looking for current information in our orchid magazines from national orchid societies. But after flipping through several years' worth of magazines, I was disappointed to find little if any real information on this genera. How sad, as these plants produce very large flowers in many bright colors that are sometimes very fragrant. I definitely felt like I was trying to write something good about the bad stepchild.

Susann Patton

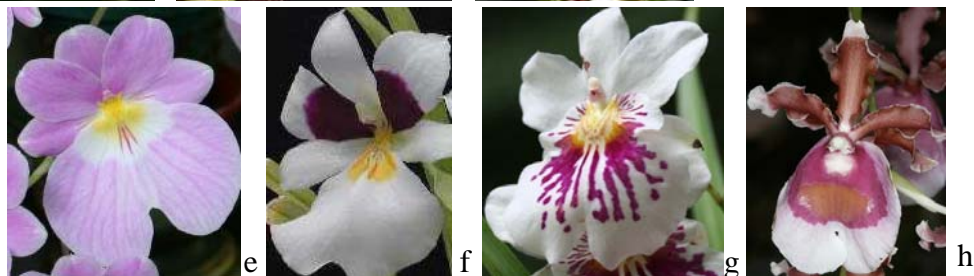


First, some distinction needs to be made between miltonia and miltoniopsis. They both were named after Lord Fitzwilliam Milton, someone who financed orchid collection expeditions in the early days of orchid collecting, around the 1830's. When the first plant was discovered many years ago in Brazil, it was called a Miltonia (a specimen of the Brazilian *Miltonia spectabilis*-on the right) after Fitzwilliam. Later in history other orchids were found that appeared to be similar. But these came from higher elevations in Columbia. These orchids came to be called Miltoniopsis, with the 'opsis' meaning 'like' or in a direct translation 'Miltonia-like'. Both are in the family of Oncidiums, which also includes odontoglossum, oncidium and the brassia genera. Miltoniopsis are what we call the 'pansy-orchids' (I'll add 'POs' hopefully to lessen any confusion). Most Miltonia species look far more like oncidiums in shape, than they do like miltoniopsis (PO). Indeed, some taxonomists today argue that there aren't sufficient differences between



Examples of Miltonia Species on the left.
 a) Milt. Spectabilis alba;
 b) Milt. Regnelli;
 c) Milt. Candida and
 d) Milt. Clolonesii
 Notice the more pointed
 septals and petals.

Examples of Miltoniopsis species to the right.
 e) *M. vexillara*
 f) *M. roezlii*
 g) *M. phalaenopsis* and
 h) *M. warscewiczii*



Miltonia and Oncidium to maintain them in separate genera. I have noticed that the colors of Miltonia, however are closer to Miltoniopsis(PO) than to Oncidiums.


For many years the two types were referred to as 'warm growing Brizilian miltonia' and 'cool-growing Colombian' miltonias. But it turns out that the cool-growing Colombian miltonias are, for the most part, actually intermediate to warm growing; and the warm-growing Brazilian miltonias are, for the most part, not actually warm-growing. Instead, most require cool to intermediate conditions. There is also a real floating feeling to the classifications of this genera, as you will see Milt. warscewiczii has also been called *Odontoglossum warscewiczii* or *M. Phalaenopsis* referred to as *Odontoglossum Phalaenopsis*. Also, while the generic name is Miltoniopsis(PO), the name Miltonia is still used for registration, thus when miltoniopsis are used for hybridization they are registered as miltonia. All this just demonstrates the dynamics of classifying orchid genera and our continued learning about all orchids. Just pay a little attention to the parentage of your plants.

While there are technical differences between Miltonia and Miltoniopsis (i.e. 56 or 60 chromosomes), they are most easily distinguished by checking the physical differences. Miltoniopsis(PO) has a single leaf, rather than two leaves sprouting from each pseudobulb as seen with Miltonia. Also the Miltoniopsis grow pseudobulbs in tightly clustered groups. Miltonia are widely separated by a long rhizome.

Now back to the Pansies (miltoniopsis (PO)) and their cultural needs. Unfortunately they do have a reputation as not being a 'beginner plant'. Despite this reputation, I have found them relatively easy to grow if certain requirements are met. If you are successful you will be rewarded with 2-3 spikes on each new growth and on those spikes will be several (up to 7) large, sometimes fragrant blossoms. Miltoniopsis(PO) are beautifully patterned, often with "waterfall" markings (thanks to *M. phalaenopsis*), with colors found ranging from whites, pinks, purples, reds and yellows to almost black. Well grown plants often produce a second flowering several months after their initial bloom season. Consequently, a plant may be in bloom much of the year. What more could you ask for?



When repotting, do not simply "pot on" into a larger pot, leaving the rootball with the old, used medium intact. All old medium should be removed, any damaged or diseased roots trimmed off, and the plant repotted using all fresh medium and a clean sterile pot. Repotting is best done in the autumn when new root growth begins, usually when the newest growths are about half mature. These plants grow all year, with bit of a spurt when there is cooler fall weather—also repotting at that time prevents added stress from heat. It is true for all orchids that repotting should be done just as new root growth is starting so that plants become re-established in the shortest possible time.

 **C₈H₁₀O₂N₄ · H₂O.** The snail saga does not continue... for now. We have been out after dark looking for them. One night we found 3 and that was it for a total so far. Usually we pick them off as they line up like wagon trains heading for what ever feeding grounds they prefer. I ran the sprinklers in the evening an extra time, but still no snails. Preplexing. The only change that I have made was to remove a ground covering veronica that was not only covering the garden grounds, but also over hanging the planter walls. Maybe I solved my snail dilemma, but since I still need to answer some questions, I need a new place to hunt for them. Anybody out there with a good population let me know and I will come and get them. Until then I will keep working on it.

These plants are epiphytes and require well-drained loose mixes, such as fir bark, tree fern, perlite and charcoal. They prefer small pots and being kept a bit rootbound. They grow year round and it is suggested that repotting be done in the autumn when they are starting active growing after the warm summer months. They grow in low to intermediate light; where no shadow results when a hand is passed between the plant and its light source. They grow well under lights, on windowsills (the same as African violets) and even grow well in semi-hydroponics (you can talk to Jim Rowley for more details). They need to be kept moist at all times, watered daily and just like other orchids they prefer to be *relatively* dry by night. They are very sensitive to salts, so I use distilled water. I fertilize weekly or biweekly with a balanced fertilizer at one-eighth or a quarter strength. Because they are finely rooted, with thin leaves, a key for good growing is having high humidity. I live less than a mile from the coast and generally have 50% or greater, but I have found even more (>70%) produces better growth. Miltoniopsis, because of their thin leaves have a habit of "accordioning" their pretty, slender, grassy leaves into crinkled waves when humidity is too low or there is insufficient water. Once accordioned, the leaves will not flatten, but new foliage will come in straight once humidity and watering are corrected. Remember healthy leaves means more and bigger flowers. Spider mites seem to have preference for these plants and watch for infestations. I treat with insecticidal soap. These plants require mostly intermediate temperatures, which means 50-80 degrees. At higher temperatures they seem to do better with

more humidity. Now that I have said all of this, I feel I need to add that I am starting over again since all my pansies were wiped out with last years cold. I am looking for ward to this because they are such a rewarding plant.



Milt. "Lorane"

Milt. Capitola "Akatsuka"



Milt Maufant X Akagi

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—June 19, 2007

The Board Meetings starting in June will be held at
the South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

The meeting will start at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays
*Please note the change in location and day of the
week-Everybody is welcome!*



**"THE ORCHIDS ARE
ONLY A FRONT FOR MY
SNAIL & SLUG BED AND
BREAKFAST"**

Welcome New Members

Please warmly welcome our newest members. It is up to us, as a society to make all new members feel welcome.

Karen Czap is our featured new member this month. She joined in March of 2007 and is currently growing several types of orchids, both inside and out. She is a retired teacher. Speaking of which did you know how many teachers we have as members? Inquire and you will be pleasantly surprised. Two other areas of expertise are healthcare and photography. This year the membership grew with several new photographers joining, both professional and hobbyist.

Sunshine

Ted Cornell is improving daily from his recent surgery. Betty is also holding in there. Please send cards or letters, but hold off on calling her for a while yet.

Jane Bailey I am sad to report the passing of Jane Bailey, wife of Bill Bailey. Both had been active members since 1977. They had recently moved to the desert. Our deepest sympathies to the family.

Helen Congleton has passed away. While not a current members of SBOS, she was well known in the orchid world. She was often referred to as "The Grand Dame of Paphiopedilums". She had a very fine collection of Paphiopedilums and made many crosses, receiving many awards for her work. She was a member of the Orchids Digest Corporation as well as being an AOS and CSA judge. She will be missed.

**The Refrigerator Door
Orchid Show Calendar
June 2007—July, 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:
Polly Kinsinger.....310-374-6471
Marc Massari310-220-3507

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

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

AOS Liaison:
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
orchids at south bay orchid society dot com



Lc Blazing Treat

**June 15, 2007
SBOS INSTALLATION DINNER
PORTS 'O CALL RESTURANT
Cash Bar open at 6:30pm
Dinner at 7:00pm
Please no corkage
Dinner cost is \$30 per person
Contact: Ron Henry 310-374-9699**

Directions: From Torrance take PCH to I-110, go South toward San Pedro. Take A Rt on N. Harbor Blvd. Go Lt on W. 6th Street. Take A Rt on Sampson Way and Lt onto the Berth Area. Restaurant is at end of Berth toward the left.

**June 23, 2007
Fifth Orchid Digest Speakers Day
“Vandaceous Alliance Spectacular”
Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens
San Marino, CA
Tickets \$60 (\$70 at the door) for afternoon seminars, dinner and evening distinguished speaker event
Contact: Simone Friend 562-431-1247**

**July 13-15, 2007
27th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate
Orchid Fair
Earl Warren Show grounds, Santa Barbara, CA
Hours Fri-Sat 9:00am— 5:00pm
Sun 10:00am—4:00pm
Admission is free; parking is \$5.00**

A WORD OF CAUTION:SOMETIMES YOU TAKE HOME MORE THAN YOU BARGINED FOR. CHECK YOUR PLANTS CAREFULLY WHEN YOU GET THEM HOME (NO, THIS WAS NOT FROM THE PICNIC, BUT IT WAS OFF A RAFFLE TABLE) .

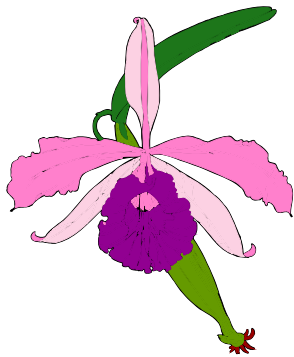


“The Inflorescence”

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



Milt. Patricia Marie Linares
(photo from Porters Orchids Catalog)



**See you at the Banquet
6:30 P.M.
Ports’O’Call Restaurant
San Pedro**

Ned