



Dtps. Minho Princess  
Photo: Don Goss

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

**JULY, 2007**

**Friday, July 20, 2007**

**8:00 PM**

South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula

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***Phalaenopsis Culture***

***Bob Gordon***

The speaker for this month is Bob Gordon, a retired US Air Force officer. For the past 30 years, he has been living and growing Phalaenopsis orchids in Southern California. He lectures nationally and internationally on Phalaenopsis culture, and is the author of several books. He considers himself a "Phalaenopsis evangelist". He is considered an eminent expert and will be giving a lively and very informative talk on Phalaenopsis culture for the basic beginner and the more advanced growers.

Mr. Gordon will be bringing some of his books for sale. He welcomes book signing for those of us who own one of his books. He will also be doing our culture session with some basic information for growing Phalaenopsis. Don't miss this great opportunity. The titles of his books include:

- *The Beginners Guide* (\$11.00 / 52 pp.) provides the guidance needed during the first year by phal growers. The book fills the gap between nursery handouts and a more comprehensive manual.
- *The Culture Of The Phalaenopsis Orchid* (\$22.50 / 192 pp.) is the standard text for growing phalaenopsis.
- *Phalaenopsis Culture: A Worldwide Survey* (\$25.00 / 300 pp.) is the most comprehensive text written on the subject.
- *Orchid Seedling Care* (\$22.00 / 162 pp.) outlines the practices needed to bring seedlings along from removal from the flask to blooming size.

## *President's Message*

The South Bay Orchid Society is entering into its 51<sup>st</sup> year. We are a very different society than when it was first formed. The society has gone through many changes to survive and grow . It takes new members with fresh ideas, as well as the experience and knowledge of our long-time members to successfully meet the needs of all of our members. This year's Board of Directors has that mix. We would also like to hear from you, our members, as to how we can better serve you as orchid hobbyists.

Involvement of our members in the functions of the society is important for the success of our society. We have two shows each year that require volunteers to make them a success. Our society is financed by the profits from these shows. Our shows have a large following in the local communities and are considered quality shows by the commercial vendors who come to sell their orchids. Planning for our Fall Show, which will be held at the South Coast Botanic Garden on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, has already begun. We will soon be asking for volunteers to sign up. Also, we need someone to sell raffle tickets, and Carolyn and Shirley in the kitchen, are looking for additional help. Volunteering is a great way to become an active society member and make new friends.

I am looking forward to serving as your president this coming year. We have a hard working Board of Directors who are excited about working together to make this a successful and productive year for the South Bay Orchid Society.

**Marla Corey**

## *Ted And Betty Cornell*

The SBOS Board members voted unanimously to recognize Ted and Betty Cornell for their outstanding service to our society for the past 33 years. They were given the "American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Award" and a lovely orchid vase filled with orchids.

Ted and Betty have served as chair persons in many functions during their membership. Their first was being in charge of the kitchen for many years. During this time span, they also were responsible for organizing and preparing many holiday dinners. Later they were Vice Chair in charge of picnics before our current arrangement with George Vazques. For many years they were responsible for our annual show ticket sales, where they collected and deposited receipts for each of the shows. They were Committee Chairs for the Bargain Table for a number of years. They served as our Membership Directors on the board for many years. Their most recent Committee Chair, since 2001, has been the Plant Opportunity raffle ticket sales.

Ted and Betty's quiet demeanor at these functions provided all active members a standard for welcoming new members and encouraging new members to become member as our society's officers and appointed chair positions.

*Pictures From the Installation Banquet*



Photos: Don Goss

## *The Dance of the Orchids*

One of my favorite orchid types are the Oncidiums. Oncidiums are an extraordinarily large and diverse genus with an equally diverse number of habitats. They are the orchids of the Americas, starting in Florida and growing on into Argentina. One group of Oncidiums are called "Dancing Ladies" or Strap-Leaf Oncidiums; sometimes referred to as "varicosum" types. The plant *Onc. varicosum* only notes one of the species used to make the hybrids. These are among the easiest of orchids to grow, and very popular once you know what you are looking at. The common name of "Dancing Ladies" comes from the shape of the flower which resembles a lady with her arms outstretched on the top with a skirt-shaped lip below-the skirt of a ballerina. These flowers do indeed give the illusion of a ruffled Lady's skirt if you use your imagination. The flower spikes are usually long (up to 3 feet), branched and very flexible; swaying easily in the faintest breeze. This is my favorite part. I love to watch the inflorescence move in the air currents which makes them dance.



Most Oncidiums are medium-sized epiphytic plants that have sometimes rather large pseudobulbs joined by a creeping rhizome. The strap like leaves are carried on top of the pseudobulbs in most species. The roots range far and wide over the limbs of trees, which are their hosts. In the wild, the plants can be found on the inner branches or trunks of trees, where it is shadier and generally more humid when enveloped by the surrounding tree vegetation.

I have been growing my plants in pots and on mounts, using cork, redwood slabs and even an old tree fern stump. I have also mounted them to a tree branch in my yard where they thrived without any intervention until the last winter's cold spell hit. When I see active root growth in the spring, I tie them to their mounts with fishing line, or bonsai wire, but you can also use plastic coated wire, pantyhose or just about any type of string. I have even seen them stapled to their mounts. Just make sure the plants are firmly held to their mounts, with the newest growth closest to the mount. The new roots will find the support and start to attach. The roots like to roam freely, so choose a large mount with plenty space for root growth. I do my potting when new growth is evident, usually in the spring. If the plant is in a pot, I use a medium grade bark because the roots are fine. Oncidiums which make up the "Dancing Lady" group are fairly easy to grow with the exception that they need good humidity. Weekly watering with a good orchid fertilizer is also recommended. I grow my Oncidiums as companions to cymbidiums, with a little less sun. Outside plants need more water during the summer. With these plants, it is easy to determine if they are getting enough water because the large flattish pseudobulbs will start to wrinkle. If this happens to your plant, increase the water, they will plump right back up. Burned or very light green leaves will indicate too much light; dark green leaves indicate too little light. The leaf color should be a nice light green in order to give the plant enough to encourage blooming. The inflorescences will appear at the bottom of the new pseudobulbs from the inside of the leaf on both sides of the bulb. If you've treated your plant right, you should get two inflorescences from each new pseudobulb.

I have listed some starter plants on the next page that are popular and easy to find. When you are out shopping be sure to look for these, as they are rewarding in all aspects of growing orchids; they are easy to grow, they are colorful, sometimes they have wonderful smells, and they are forgiving; giving easy clues to their needs.

**Susann Patton**

## *2007 SBOS Ribbon Winners*

<b>Advanced Amateur:</b>	Don Goss	First
	Ted Johnson	Second
	Bobby Ignacio	Third
<b>Amateur:</b>	Larry Bergen	Tied for First
	Peggy Wormington	Tied for First
	Sandy Hammersmark	Third

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**Onc. varicosum.** This is the original Dancing Lady with its large, bright yellow lip, which dominates its hybrids.

**Onc Grower Ramsy**



**Onc. Spacelatum.** One of Bobby Ignacio's flowers.

**Onc Jungle Monarch**



**Onc. Sharry Baby.** This is the famous chocolate smelling orchid.

**Onc Rosy Sunset**



## *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—July 24 , 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!

### ***Sunshine***

**Ted Cornell** remains in serious condition after his recent surgery. Ted has suffered two strokes after his surgery and remains in the Torrance Memorial Hospital PCU.

**Mabel Manel** has just got home from the hospital after a spill which hurt her hip. She would really enjoy hearing from the members, so give her a call.

**Ann McNeeley** also has just come from the hospital. She had another operation and is doing much better. Please give her a call and pass on some good cheer.

### **Welcome New Members**

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



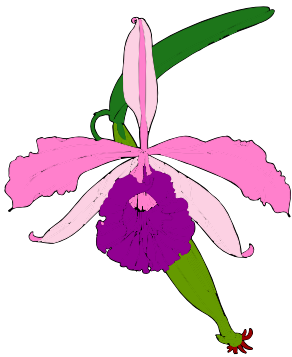
**OKAY...GO FOR IT,  
BET YOU CAN'T EAT  
JUST ONE**

***IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.*** Please stop by the membership desk to make your payment of \$17.00/per household. For those of you, whom have just joined recently please check with me as you may not need to pay for this year. Olga has been on vacation in Europe, and I am filling in for her until she gets back and normalizes again.  
Susann Patton 310-944-9798 slpatton@earthlink.net Thanks!



***“The Inflorescence”***

South Bay Orchid Society  
c/o Saul Miller  
3964 Lamarr Avenue  
Culver City, CA 90232



***The next meeting is July 20.***