



Paph. Iantha Stage "Gloria"
Grower: Dr. Bob Streeter
Photo by: Don Goss

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

"Orchids for Amateurs"

Founded July, 1957

The
INFLORESCENCE

January 2009

www.southbayorchidsociety.com

Our January Guest Speaker is Dr. Eric Christenson:

Phragmipedium and their Habitats

Dr. Christenson is a research taxonomist with strong interests in the Aeridinae (Sarcantchinae), neotropical floristics, and the conservation of horticultural plants. He authored the definitive monograph of *Phalaenopsis*, published by Timber Press in 2001. He has done field work in both Guyana and French Guiana and authored the orchid treatment in the *Vascular Flora of Central French Guiana* for the New York Botanical Garden. He is also actively working with David Bennett of Lima, Peru, on a modern inventory of Peruvian orchids. To date they have published 800 illustrations as *Icones Orchidacearum Peruvianarum*, including more than 150 new distribution records and describing more than 100 new species from Peru. This includes the world's tallest orchid, *Sobralia altissima*, with stems normally +/- 27 feet tall and an extreme stem which measured over 44 feet tall! His bilingual *Machu Picchu: Orchids* was published in 2003 and forms the basis for further inventories in the region. His current work in Peru can be seen at: www.andesamazon.org. He also authored the orchids for *A Tropical Garden Flora* for the Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Classically trained, Dr. Christenson has worked in most of the world's significant herbaria and national museums. He is an acknowledged expert in critically important historic specimens that form the basis for applying plant names. His overall research focus is the accurate definition of species, their precise distributions, and the correct application of names, three facets of botany required prior to considering conservation policies. He is honored by the genera *Christensonia* (Vietnam) and *Christensonella* (Brazil) in addition to a number of species such as *Ascocentrum christensonianum* (Vietnam).

A prolific author of more than 400 publications, Dr. Christenson is known for his articles that attempt to bridge the gap between taxonomy and horticulture as well as his in-depth book reviews. He is a strong advocate for orchid conservation, particularly *ex situ* propagation, and actively works with commercial growers to that end.

In addition to botany, Dr. Christenson is an avid gardener. His house in Bradenton, Florida is known for its unusual plants and complete lack of lawn.

Susan Amini

Please turn to page 4 to find our very own president's "This is My Story". Tom Renger's membership in our society is inspirational and spans forty years! His consistency and years of service are appreciated by everyone. Culture Session information is found on page 3. **Editor.**

President's Message

2009 has arrived and we look forward to a year where our board continues to encourage participation in our activities. The more activities you enjoy, the closer relationship you feel with our members who are also enjoying themselves and orchids.

Peggy Wormington organized our Christmas Party dinner which was attended by about 70 people. Each membership received a fine Cattleya orchid purchased from one of our favorite vendors in Hawaii. The few extra orchids were immediately purchased by those who appreciated the quality of our Christmas orchid gift. Additionally, all of the beautiful poinsettias that were on each table were given away.

The next major scheduled event will be our Spring Show on March 7-8. This event pays for the major cost of our plant opportunity table, newsletter mailings, and supports numerous monthly activities. It is another activity that helps find new members and acts as a catalyst to create and renew member friendships sharing their orchid interests.

Our lively board meetings have received excellent participation. A number of subjects are addressed each month and actions taken or assigned. To appreciate what is happening at the board meetings, you can ask Saul Miller or me for an email copy of the approved minutes.

This month we will be forming the Nomination Committee to identify nominees for next year's officers. If you are interested becoming an officer, or know someone who is, encourage her/him to contact the Committee. Most positions take about two extra hours a month, unless you are given an assignment of interest to you. We will publish the Nomination Committee members' names in the next month's newsletter.

You may have noticed that our newsletter editor is trying different formats, especially on page one. Sabrina was inspired by Arthur Hazboun and Don Goss to create the "Tell Us Your Story" article. Each of us have a story to tell, if we want to. Why not share!

You may have questioned the format that we are currently using to post our email addresses. Don Goss recommended this format to prevent computer hackers who like to send spam and make life miserable for us who enjoy and need the internet for fast communications. Thanks Don, a great idea. See Arthur Hazboun's article about this subject on page three.

Tom Renger

Woweee!

Drawing Extravaganza

We will be sharing an orchid opportunity table extravaganza at our January meeting. If our membership agrees with my recommendation, it is possible that each attendee will receive three orchids to take home...

Tom R.



South Bay Orchid Society Board

President:

Tom Renger310-316-0707
TOMSBOS AT ROADRUNNER DOT COM

1st Vice President:

Susan Amini.....310-541-6363
SUSAN_AMINI AT YAHOO DOT COM

2nd Vice President:

Peggie Wormington310-548-4344
DIGADIRT AT GMAIL DOT COM

Treasurer:

Christine Hough..... 310-316-4817
CHOUGH.SBOS AT GMAIL DOT COM

Secretary:

Saul Miller.....310-558-1545
SDWMMILLER AT ATT DOT NET

Membership:

Eeva Renger310-316-0707
EEVASBOS AT ROADRUNNER DOT COM

Edith Robinson.....310-547-3382
EDITH_ROBINSON AT CA.RR DOT COM

Newsletter Editor:

Sabrina Roque310-541-6810
SABRINAORCHIDSOCIETY AT VERIZON DOT NET

Show Chair:

Marla Corey310-833-1918
MARLACOREY AT SBCGLOBAL DOT NET

Webmaster:

Arthur Hazboun
SPECIALORCHIDS AT SOUTHBAYORCHIDSOCIETY DOT COM

Directors:

Nick Braemer310-560-4384
ORCHIDNICK AT YAHOO DOT COM

Don Goss.....310-316-3595
ORCHIDS AT SOUTHBAYORCHIDSOCIETY DOT COM

Bob Streeter310-541-6692
RJS.GES AT GTE DOT NET

Marla Corey, Past Pres.....310-833-1918
MARLACOREY AT SBCGLOBAL DOT NET

Culture session 7 PM

Culture Session: This month's session will be about Phragmipediums' culture and care.

This month's raffle table is a generous donation from a former member, Ed White of Hermosa Beach, who donated his whole collection to the society. We also have a generous donation from Eric Klepl of San Pedro, who with the passing of his mother wanted her orchids to get a good home. We thank both of these gentlemen for their generous donations. I would also like to thank Tom Renger for helping me with loading the plants. Thank you.

We have a lot of plants in spike that will be on the raffle table, so don't forget to buy your tickets.

Susan Amini

What's with the new email address format?

Many of you must be wondering why our email address format changed last month. Our reason for doing so is because our board members and chair personnel are usually inundated with unsolicited spam and junk email messages. This is done by spammers and email harvesting computer "bots" whose sole livelihood is to harvest the internet and websites for email addresses & send out junk email, also known as spam, or to sell the email address to online telemarketers and fraudsters. E-mail is an extremely cheap mass medium, and professional spammers have automated their processes to the extent that millions of messages can be sent hourly and daily with little or no labor costs to them.

If you want to send an email to our board members or committee chairs, simply paste their address into your email program and replace the "at" with @ and the "dot" with a period. Of course, the best safe and most secure way to deal with unsolicited email is to never reply to someone or someone's email that you do not recognize or trust. Most important: never ever click or open a link or email message unless you know specifically where it came from and verify it first.

Arthur Hazboun – Webmaster
Specialorchids at southbayorchidsociety dot com

For more information on spam read: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spam_\(electronic\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spam_(electronic))

My Story by Tom Renger

During 1963, my wife Marion and our 3-year-old daughter La Dona visited Marion's family on the Big Island of Hawaii at Hakalau. Her family treated us with true oriental cordiality and shared their farm life of raising sugar cane with us. Marion's brother, Richard, who lived in Honolulu, was a close friend of Mrs. Lester McCoy who was one of the top [Phalaenopsis](#) breeders on the islands. Since Richard mentioned that I had a greenhouse, Mrs. McCoy insisted that Richard pack and present me with approximately 50 of her new crosses.

After we got home I said to myself, "What in the world am I going to do with these orchids?" which were still in their boxes. I had a friend named Clyde Wilson, an engineering acquaintance in Douglas Engineering who raised orchids. I asked him for help, and that weekend he came to our home. Clyde was a true orchid friend and a wonderful carpenter and he set out to build benches which were installed within a week. The next weekend he took me to an orchid supply company where we purchased shade cloth, pots, potting media, and all kinds of stuff that he insisted we had to add to the media, such as crushed limestone, charcoal, red wood wool, etc.

Clyde was a member of the South Bay Orchid Society and said that I should join as there were great growers and fine members who were willing to help beginners. You will notice in our Membership Directory that I joined our society in 1963. I started out making coffee as we didn't have the money for refreshments. Next I was a treasurer for two years, then a program chairman for the following two years. In 1968 I was elected president and the rest is history. So, after 40 years I decided to volunteer as a president again. Yes, South Bay Orchid Society has had many changes and life is good. Member participation as officers is essential to keep South Bay Orchid Society active and alive for the future.

Tell us Your Story

We'd love to hear from the members in a series of articles on "How I Found Orchids and Learned to Love Them." Tell us how you discovered orchids or how you came to the South Bay Orchid Society and details about your experience as a member. Please send contributions via email to delta51 at Verizon dot net.

Ribbon Judging Results

The December meeting was replaced by the Holiday Potluck so no judging took place. Judging results will return next month. Don't forget to bring your blooming plants to share— all levels are welcome and encouraged. Participants receive a free raffle ticket and the opportunity to win an orchid magazine subscription. **Editor.**

New Member News

by Eeva Renger

We recognize that additional information for new members is needed that is not found in our Directory. If you have a question about “how”, “what”, “who” or “when”, do consult your directory; most likely the answer is there. So, let us start from the beginning.

SBOS has two annual shows and sales. The spring show is held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. In March/April, we offer a bus trip to the Santa Barbara Int'l Orchid Show with stops at several orchid nurseries in the area. June is the time for new officers' installation dinner. Then it is time for our fall show at the South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG). December finds us in holiday spirit; during our Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner, each membership will receive a free quality orchid.

Our society sponsors hands-on annual workshop for anyone who wishes to learn how to pot orchids. This event is free to members and open for the public.

We have a library on premises that is open during meetings. Our excellent collection of books can be checked out for duration of 30 days.

SBOS fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, therefore the membership year runs the same, and includes two people in the same household. The first year's fee is \$17.00 plus a one-time fee of \$8.00 for a name badge. Annual renewal is \$17.00 and additional badges may be purchased for \$8 each. Members in good standing will receive our monthly newsletter that has information about our meetings, shows, and articles of general interest. The newsletter lists that month's speaker and subject. The cultural session subjects include how to successfully grow orchids, various potting media, fertilization, light and air requirements, species, viruses, bugs, how to display your orchids at shows, and much more. Newsletter is either emailed or mailed to your home.

A host is available for any new member during our meetings that are held generally on the third Friday of the month at the SCBG. The cultural meeting starts at 7 PM running approximately 45 minutes.

The general meeting starts at 8 PM with our featured speaker's presentation lasting about one hour. After the presentation, and a 15-minute break, we call the raffles.

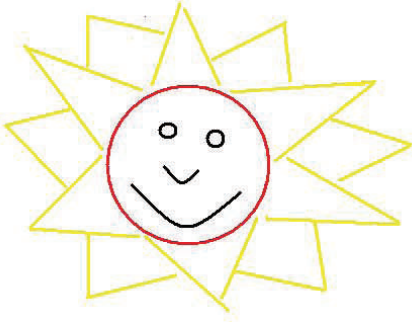
We have four different raffles each month:

1. Name badge raffle. When a member comes into a meeting wearing a name badge, he/she can collect a raffle ticket at the membership desk. Each member in a household wearing a name badge can collect a ticket.
2. Ribbon-judging raffle. Member bringing a blooming orchid(s) for display or judging will receive one ticket per plant. Our judge places the ticket on the table next to each plant. Judging tables are on both sides of the room and our display table is marked “for display only.” To be included in judging, the plants have to be on the plant judging tables by 7:15 PM. At the next meeting, returning your ribbon that your plant received, entitles you for one free raffle ticket for the ribbon-judging raffle. That ticket can be collected at the ticket sales desk. Winners with the most ribbons of highest awards qualify for an annual subscription of Orchid Digest.
3. Refreshment raffle. Each membership bringing refreshments to a meeting will collect a different raffle ticket in the kitchen.
These first three raffles have better odds for winning than the plant table raffle.
4. Plant table raffle. An unlimited number of tickets can be purchased at the raffle desk for this one.

Each month members can bring their plants for silent auction sale. The tables for these plants are in our small meeting room. Members bidding on a plant will record a dollar amount on a piece of paper, sign their name so it is legible, and place the slip next to the plant. The bidding will end, when announced, after our coffee break, and sellers and bidders meet in the auction site.

Our meetings adjourn by 9:45 PM to meet the SCBG's deadline for 10 PM closing. All able-bodied members are requested to help stacking chairs and tables that have to be stored before we leave.

People, Places and Things



Marilyn Hill continues to be behind the clouds as she also had a recent eye surgery, as well of other problems. However, don't be surprised if you see her at our January meeting. Welcome back!

THANK YOU!

Our society thanks Eric Klepl for his donation of his mother, Barbara's orchids in memory of her. He wants members of our society to enjoy and care for them in her honor

Orchid Trader

Tom Renger: It is easy and fun to trade. Come see my Cattleyas and decide which divisions you would like. Virus testing is available.

TOMRENGER AT ROADRUNNER DOT COM 310-316-0707

Nick Braemer: Bring your trade to the meetings, or choose from (1) Stanhopea grandiflora, 2 leafless back bulbs plus 3 front end bulbs with leaves. (2) Miltonia clowessii x Milt. Golden Showers, 2 leafless back bulbs and 3 front end bulbs with leaves, one spike. I won Best Oncidium of Show at the New Otani with this plant a number of years ago.

Nick brings plants to the meetings and is open to trade these plants. Stop by and chat with Nick at January 's meeting.

ORCHIDNICK AT YAHOO DOT COM 310-560-4384.

New members:
Please come to the membership desk at each meeting.

President's Choice Personality of the Month

Peggie Wormington is a board member who can be depended upon for many tasks, including special events, such as our recent Holiday Party Dinner. She has the experience and organizational capabilities to make complicated activities easy and pleasant to accomplish.

Thank you again, Peggie.

**The Refrigerator Door
Orchid Calendar
January 2009**

SBOS Committee Chairs:

Librarian:

Kayo Libiano 310-897-8085

Raffle Tickets:

Burt Dobratz 310-375-2693

Refreshments:

June Brooks 310-549-4266

Joann Green 310-830-1585

Ribbon Judging:

Polly Kinsinger 310-374-6471

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

Publicity:

Don Goss 310-316-3595
*ORCHIDS AT SOUTHBAYORCHIDSOCIETY DOT
COM*

Our next meeting is **FRIDAY January 16**
Culture session 7 PM
General meeting 8 PM

Next board meeting will be
January 20, 2008

All meetings will take place at the SCBG

**South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation
Events in Winter 2009**

- March 7-8, Cactus & Succulent Show
- March 14, African Violet Show & Sale
- March 21, CA Rare Fruit Lecture
- March 29, Dahlia Lecture

Please support our host, the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation for any of these educational and fun filled events.

For more information log-on to:

southcoastbotanicgarden.org/3montheventcalendar.html

South Bay Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale March 7th and 8th

Our Spring Show and Sale held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center is just weeks away. Our theme again this year is "The Art of Orchids". This has been a popular theme and we would like to again show our members' original artwork. This includes framed photos, paintings, and drawing. This is not a judged exhibit nor is a sales venue. Contact me if you have something you would like to display at our show.

At our January meeting there will be sign up sheets where you can sign up to help in the various areas where volunteers are needed. We need hosts/hostesses, ticket sellers, setup/take down, and people to help in the kitchen. We also need lots of food to feed our hungry workers.

Phone or email me if you have any questions regarding our show and how you can help.

Marla Corey (310) 833-1918.

“The Inflorescence”

South Bay Orchid Society
c/o Sabrina Roque
916 Silver Spur Rd., Ste. 201
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274



Our January
meeting is

***Friday,
January 16***