

SOUTH COAST

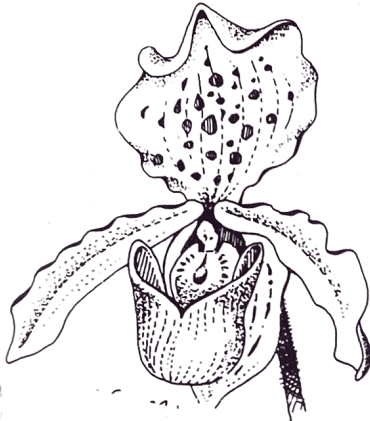


ORCHID SOCIETY, INC.  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

MEETS AT  
WHALEY PARK  
5620 ATHERTON  
LONG BEACH, CALIF.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1986  
MONDAY 8:00 P.M.

DICK NERIO  
PRESIDENT

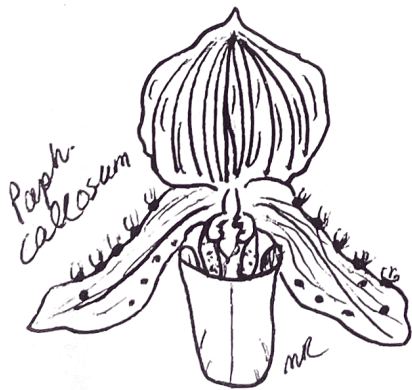


DOC CHARLES

"SOMETHING OLD - SOMETHING NEW"

Mr. Charles uses the same title in the delivery of his lectures but the program is entirely new. We welcome Doc Charles as our speaker in September. He has an outstanding collection, specializing in Paphiopedilum species and hybrids. He is best known for his research with Paphs. He is a well known hybridizer and an AOS judge. He is probably the foremost authority on Paphs.

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SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY  
AOS AWARDS - JULY 28, 1986

Paph. Holdenii "Jamboree Giant"  
(Paph. Maudiae x Callosum)

HCC 77 points  
Paphanatics, Unltd.

Onc. Lillian Oka "Mary Lou"  
(Onc. Stacyii x Lanceanum)

HCC 76 points  
W. T. Mawhiney



SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY  
RIBBON JUDGING - JULY 28, 1986

Note: There were some excellent and outstanding plants brought in after 7:30 p.m. deadline and could not be judged. Please try and be on time so that everyone will get a fair shake. By the way, would you like to help out with the judging, we need a lot of people.

CYMBIDIUM'S

1. Cym. Golden Elf
2. Cym. Valentine
- C. Cmy. Golden Elf

Dick Nerio  
Woody Wilson  
Dick Nerio

ASCOCENTRUM, VANDA ETC.

1. Asctm Curvifolium x V. Senerat

Bill & Vicki Ryan

PAPHEOPEDILUMS

1. Paph. Makuli x Paph. Fairieanum
2. Paph. Gowerianum Album
- C. Paph. Bengal Lancer

Jerry Rehfield  
Woody Wilson  
Dick Nerio

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

1. Blc. Amy Wakasugi
2. Blc. Gambal on Green x C. Forbesii
3. Mlc. Waikiki Gold
- C. Lc. Eugene Casey

Dave Toyoshima  
Dave Toyoshima  
Bill & Vicki Ryan  
Woody Wilson

ONCIDIUMS, MILTONIAS ETC.

1. Miltonopsis Edmonds
2. Onc. Golden Sunset x Gayle
3. Onc. Speculatum
- C. Miltonopsis Edmonds

Jerry Rehfield  
Gloria Wildharber  
June Sandberg  
Jerry Rehfield

ALL OTHER GENERA

1. Neofinetia Falcata
2. Meiracyllium

Dick Nerio  
June Sandberg

There was no Ribbon Judging for the month of August, 1986 due to our Luau.

LUAU - If you did not attend the luau you sure missed a very good opportunity to see authentic Hawaiian dancers. Their beautiful costumes, and dancing that was typical of the cultures of Samoa, Tahiti and Hawaii. The food was completely eaten so it must have been excellent. Thanks to our membership. We wish to thank all members and commercial growers that donated plants for our plant table. It too, was a huge success.

01  
Taken from Readers Digest—October 1986...

FLOWERS THAT DRIVE US SLIGHTLY MAD

(Mysterious, complicated, irresistible, orchids have always held us in their spell.)

Condensed from Smithsonian                      Ogden Tanner

Orchids do strange thing to people. They send sober scientists into phytological ecstasies and transform staid bankers into intrepid plant hunters. No one knows where the fever will strike next. Movie stars grow orchids. Hollywood's status flower; so do Boston computer engineers, Connecticut pediatricians, Ohio factory workers. While anyone can buy a nice windowsill orchid for \$15, an exceptionally fine specimen of a superior new hybrid may fetch as much as \$25,000—a price that more than one commercial grower has paid gladly.

Why all the fuss? The reason is simply that orchids are horticulture's crown jewels: the most extravagantly beautiful, varied and sexy family of flowering plants in the world. We'll get to the sex in a moment.

The Orchidaceae constitute the largest, most advanced flower family know to science. Experts estimate that there are some 25,000 species, with new ones still being discovered. Eighty percent or more grow in tropical latitudes, though orchids are found on all continents except Antarctica.

The tropical species are especially astonishing. Charles Darwin, exploring the Brazilian jungle in the 1830s, marveled at what he called the "wonderful and beautiful flowering parasites" he found growing on the trees. Darwin at first assumed that orchids fastened onto, and drew sustenance from, their taller forest hosts. Because of his and other reports, there arose a popular misconception of orchids as sinister, leechlike plants.

In H.G. Wells's 1894 science-fiction story "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid," the hero is barely saved from a monstrous plant that renders him unconscious with its sweet stench and proceeds to envelop him with rootlets that slowly drain his blood.

Other myths about orchids have not been entirely dispelled. Because of the predacious, traplike look of some orchid flowers, it was supposed that they devoured insects venturing unwarily into their clutches. One story has it that an orchid grower exhibiting at London's Chelsea Flower Show was approached by a well-dressed matron who demanded to see "the meat-eating orchid." The gentleman, thinking quickly, replied, "Madam, I am so sorry. It has gone to lunch."

Orchids are nether parasites nor carnivores. They are remarkable in their adaptations nevertheless. The majority of tropical orchids grow on trees and use their hosts merely for anchorage. They draw nourishment from organic matter dissolved in rainwater as it runs down the tree, and through the decaying debris trapped in their rootlets and in bark crevices.

Some scientists speculate that by going aloft, these orchids have avoided the dense shade and other competitive hazards of the forest floor and obtained the advantage of height to disperse more widely their masses of tiny seeds on the wind.

The majority of orchids in the tropics grow at cooler elevations, from 3000 to 6000 feet; some are found as high as 14,000. In temperate zones, most grow in the ground like ordinary plants. At least two species, found only in Australia, grow underground.

The flowers of orchids are diverse beyond belief. Some are so tiny that several would fit on the head of a pin. Others have huge, gaudy blooms of over a foot across. Single specimens of one orchid, a native of Southeast Asia, have been estimated to weight more than a ton, producing perhaps 10,000 flowers over a blooming season of five months, with as many as 3000 out at the same time.

Orchids resemble, and have been named for, moths, butterflies, spiders, monkeys, swans, slippers, dancing ladies. Their scents run the gamut from ethereal to intoxicating to foul. They come in practically every color imaginable, some with bizarre blotches, speckles or stripes.

While a few orchids blossom only briefly—the dazzling flowers of some tropical species last a mere five or six hours—most are remarkably long-lived, staying in bloom from several weeks to several months.

Lurking behind all these exotic colors, shapes and smells is a single purpose. It is not the delectation of human observers, but the ingenious, methodical perpetuation of the species—in a word, sex. Early folk knew there was something sexy about orchids, but they got off on the wrong track. Three centuries before Christ, the Greek philosopher-botanist Theophrastus referred to native Mediterranean species as orchis, the Greek word for testicle, on the ground that their subterranean tubers came in rounded pairs. Later the physician Dioscorides hypothesized that, for this reason, the plants must influence human sexuality. Thus orchid tubers came to be eaten avidly to stimulate desire.

Continued

To lure their pollinators, orchids use appropriately intriguing shapes, colors and scents. At least 65 different fragrant compounds have been analyzed in the orchid family, each blended to attract one or, at most, a few species of insects. Some orchids even change their scents over time.

The most noticeable of an orchid's three petals, the labellum—or lip—is often an unmistakable landing strip to attract the specific insect the flower has as its pollinator.

Once the right insect has been attracted, orchids present all sorts of contraptions to make sure it does not leave until pollen has been accurately placed or removed. Some orchids offer perfumed tidbits on the labellum to attract bees, which fall unceremoniously into a pool of water in the bucket-shaped lip. A number of species simply enclose the bees for up to an hour and a half until they calm down. Once subdued, the victims gratefully, if groggily, crawl through the only available exit—a narrow tunnel where they can't avoid the pollen.

Orchids sometimes resort to elaborate mimicry in order to fool insects into doing their will. The flowers of the ophrys genus closely resemble female wasps, complete with shiny eye spots, antennae, wings and hairs. Summoned by an odor, male wasps home in on the flowers and enthusiastically try to mate with them. In the process the wasps are dabbled with pollen destined for the next bloom.

The widespread mania for orchids started in 1818, when William Cattley, a Britist importer and amateur horticulturist, became intrigued by some bulbous stems used as packing material in a shipment of other tropical plants. As an experiment, he potted up some of them for his hothouse, and was rewarded by the unfolding of a spectacular lavender flower with purple markings and a beautifully ruffled lip—the founding queen of a dynasty of "corsage orchids" that have appeared at proms and banquets ever since. It caused an immediate sensation, inspiring wealthy collectors and commercial nurserymen to send professional plant hunters scurrying off to the tropics in search of more.

For the better part of the next hundred years, plant hunters combed the jungles and peaks of South and Central America, Africa, India, Malaysia and the Philippines, risking countless dangers to ship back vast quantities of plants—which often sold for incredible prices. In the process, entire forests were stripped; on one search a hunter figured that 4000 trees had to be cut down to obtain 10,000 usable orchids.

The first successful man-engineered hybrid orchid, created by crossing two species of calanthe, flowered in 1856. Since then, untold millions of hybridizing attempts have been made, seeking ever more exotic combinations of shape, color and scent. Orchids today boast more named hybrids than any other family of plants: the official registry, maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society of England, now exceeds 75,000.

Orchids are big business these days. Major U.S. cut-flower growers ship more than ten million blooms annually, controlling production so as to have the most popular types ready for Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day and June weddings. Among the hottest items sought by hobbyists today are miniature orchids, both the small, exotic species that have come into favor with connoisseurs and the colorful hybrids such as "minicatts"—cattleyas that have been bred to produce showy blossoms on plants that grow only about eight inches high.

Orchid growing was once exclusively a rich man's hobby. No more. Bob Scully, Jr., a leading orchid shipper, describes a high percentage of his customers as middle-Americans who enjoy making their homes look nice. He is always on the lookout for an especially fine specimen from which to propagate a new market winner. Not long ago he paid a Miami electrician and amateur orchid grower \$10,000 for a hybrid that has flitting green and chartreuse flowers five inches across. Another went for \$25,000. Clones are now available to the public for \$24.50 apiece.

So, from a prom corsage to a precious hybrid specimen, orchids continue to captivate our senses—for they well may be the most beautiful flowers in the world.

### COOKIE SHEET

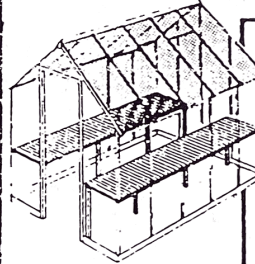
It would be greatly appreciated if the following members would bring cookies or such to the next monthly meeting. Mr. Robert MacKay, Mrs. Ethel McCallen, Mr. & Mrs. Art McCann, Mr. Melvin McManus, Mr. James Miller, Mr. & Mrs. John Miller, Dr. Anthony Mork and Mr. Roland Nakayama. Thnks.

### ORCHID BUTTONS

At this months meeting we have some ORCHID PINS which were made by a group of Special Education Children. They are students of our member, Mr. Don Frazer. We are selling them for a minimum of 25¢. All proceeds will be turned over to them. Buy one as a gift—be generous for these deserving children. We will have them available at our September meeting in the back of the room.



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W.C.  
ORCHIDS

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We have been in our new location little over 2 years now. The move I do not recommend. We have had to clear 60 large avocado trees, grate the site, build four large greenhouses, patio areas, walks, walls and water and gas lines were installed. All plants were moved, sorted, and rearranged. The job is done and our plants are thriving in the smog free air.

You are welcome to visit us and see what we have done. We experimented in using air inflated plastic tubes to seal the side walls in cold weather. When it is above 60 degrees they collapse and open the sides and permit the daily local breeze that flows up the hill to keep the greenhouses cool and hot air flushed out. Therefore, we are able to grow without fans or coolers.

We have been on buying trips to orchid hybridizers in Hawaii, searching out new hybrids and mericlones, specie compots and new miniatures.

We are open 7 days a week but would suggest you call first.



Jim Gonthue

*Orchids Ltd.*

Tel. No. (213) 549-7695  
407 E. Carson St., Carson, CA 90745

**JUNGLE COLLECTED.**

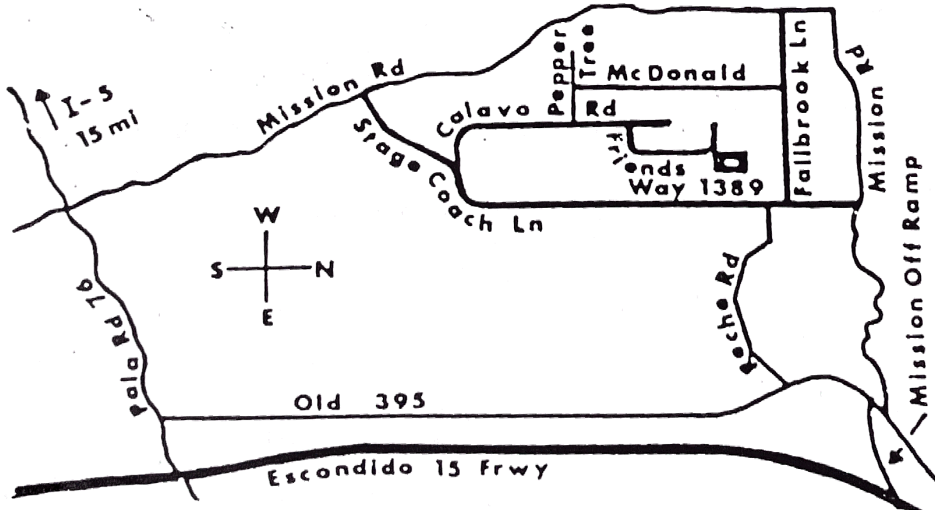
Paph. acmodontum .....	\$ 8.00
Paph. argus .....	10.00
Paph. ciliolare .....	8.00
Paph. fowliei .....	15.00
Paph. haynaldianum .....	12.00
Paph. parishii .....	15.00
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Paph. urbanianum .....	15.00
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Repotting

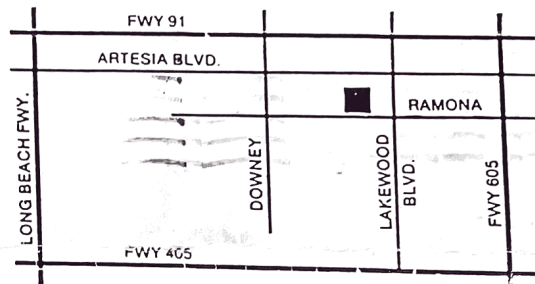
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