

# South Coast Orchid Society

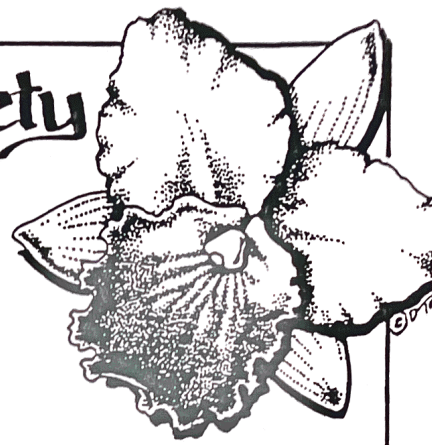
presents:

MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH 28, 1988  
8:00 P.M.

At: Whaley Park  
5620 Atherton  
Long Beach

Linda Iger  
President



P R E S E N T I N G

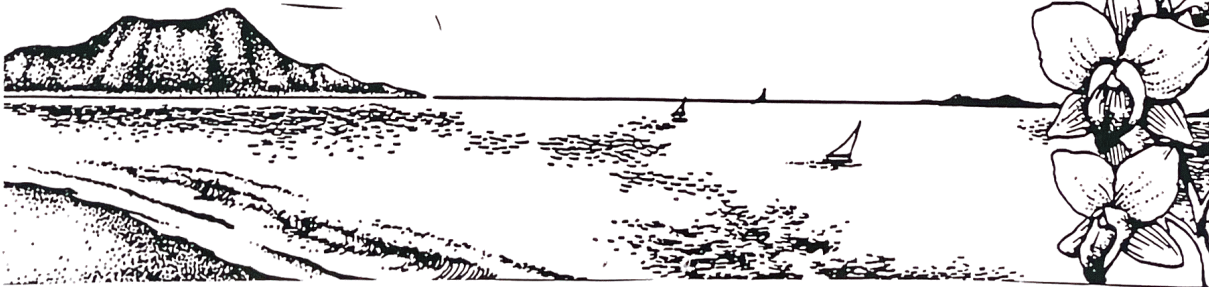
## *Jerry* *Robinson*

JERRY IS FROM RAINFOREST FLORA AND THE TOPIC

HE WILL BE SPEAKING ON IS:

"BROMELIADS AND HOW THEY ARE  
COMPATIBLE WITH ORCHIDS"

The plant table will be furnished by  
Rainforest Flora so this should be a  
good place for you to upgrade your  
orchid collection.



#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not paid your membership dues, now is the time to do so. You can do it by placing it in the mail to Mr. Arthur McCann at 16222 Monterey Lane, Space 264, Huntington Beach, California 92649. Also you could see him at the monthly meeting and remit your dues at that time. Please be advised that we will not be sending you a monthly bulletin unless you have paid your dues for 1988.

#### GUESTS

We wish to extend a big welcome to the following guests at our last meeting. We hope also that they will come again.

W. B. Jones	from Los Angeles
Nancy Hallconn	from Lakewood
Gayle Harkness	from Cypress
Alda Barents	from Long Beach

#### NAME BADGES

Be sure to wear your name badge and pick up an extra membership ticket for the plant drawing.

#### HOSPITAL LIST

Our Jane Brecht has been in the hospital for surgery and we hope that she is home and doing well. Let's get the cards going.

Mrs. Jane Brecht  
4201 Williwaw Drive  
Irvine, Calif. 92714

#### A.O.S. JUDGING -SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY - FEBRUARY 22, 1988

Odontocidium Golen Trident 'Bumblebee' (Odm. bictoniense x Odcdm. Tiger Hambuhren)	HCC - 76.5 points Jerry Rehfield
Zygocella Miami Conference 'Striped Monster' (Zygopetalum Helen-Ku x Mendoncella fimbriata)	HCC - 76 points Jerry Rehfield
Elc. Silk Slippers 'Royal Wedding' (Lc. Colorama x Elc. Pamela Hetherington)	Judges' Commendation Stewart Orchids

NORMAN FANG

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

This article appeared in the Los Angeles Time January 17, 1988 and written by Mary Barber a Staff Writer.

When other 6-year-olds were collecting toys, Norman Fang was collecting orchids and inadvertently launching his career.

Years later, he chose Cal Poly Pomona for his higher education because of its orchid collection and began setting all kinds of records in orchid propagation.

Now, at age 25, Fang has bred 170 orchid hybrids and has sold thousands of individual plants through a school program. He has sold enough plants to start his own nursery, and in 1986 was named the nation's outstanding student by the American Society for Horticultural Science.

One of the ironies of Fang's unusual career is that he has not yet seen the results of his labors—nor has anyone else. Orchids take six or seven years to mature into bloom, and Fang's serious work with them began only four years ago, when he entered Cal Poly.

Nurserymen and orchid fanciers buy the young plants before they bloom on the basis of their lineage and "if the grower has a good reputation," a Cal Poly spokesman said.

"I'll never see the results of some of my seeding here," he said as he stood amid 3,500 plants that he tends in one of the school's greenhouses. They are part of a collection of 70,000 orchids that started with a gift of plants to the school from actor Raymond Burr in 1982.

Another irony is that despite the awards, honors, scholarships and income Fang accumulated as his interest grew, his parents had trouble accepting his chosen work as serious business.

"The Chinese culture presses for success in a particular profession, and it's been difficult for them to have me in horticulture," Fang said.

However, his successes eventually so impressed his parents that his father helped buy a 3-acre site in Ontario where his son established Norman's Orchids. There, Fang has built a greenhouse and produces thousands

of plants that he sells to nurseries and orchid fanciers, who buy them even before they bloom because of their 'pedigrees.'

A native of Taiwan, Fang's spoke little English when his family came to the United States 11 years ago. He spent one year as a chemistry major at California State University, Long Beach, then switched to Cal Poly when he learned of its orchid collection, which college spokesmen say is believed to be the largest in any university in the continental United States.

Fang threw himself into studies, forming student horticulture clubs, taking on special projects, spending every holiday and vacation nurturing plants at school, and sometimes spending all night on his projects.

"I don't think I've ever seen anyone like him," said Frank D. Gibbons, chairman of ornamental horticulture at Cal Poly. He called Fang "a role model for future horticulturists."

Fang's special interest is micropropagation, which is cloning plants. The process involves taking microscopic pieces of tissue from orchid plants and growing them in glass containers. Although this takes as long as propagating plants with seeds, Fang said much larger quantities of orchids can be produced through micropropagation.

"I want to develop orchids as a major floral-culture crop," he said. "Like poinsettias at Christmas, they can be cultivated for a special event—perhaps Easter or Mother's day."

Not all orchids can be micropropagated, he said, and the work of sterilizing and growing the tissue is painstaking and slow. Nevertheless, he remains excited enough to commit almost all his time to orchids. He plans to get a master's degree after he graduates from Cal Poly in June. Fang attributes much of his success to Cal Poly's Kellogg Enterprise Foundation Project, through which students contract with the ornamental horticulture department to grow crops of their choice. The department finances the projects and the students market their crops, keeping the proceeds after paying back the department's investment.

"Some students don't do any of these projects and some do one or two each quarter. Nobody has done what Norman has," Gibbons said. "He has done at least 35, about 5 times as many as the average student, and has made thousands of dollars."




Fang continued.

In 1985 Fang received a scholarship for a semester at the University of Hawaii. His work in propagation anthurium plants there brought praise from Michael J. Tanabe, an associate professor, who said Fang "quickly gained the respect of his peers as a student and an entrepreneur."

Trying to explain his interest, Fang said: "I know it's hard for some people to understand. I just find a lot of excitement in tissue culture. Plants are like pets—you take care of them, and they respond."

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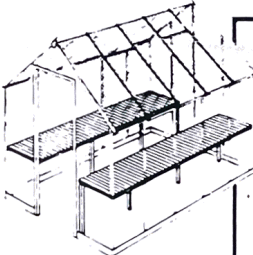
### COOKIE TIME

It would be greatly appreciated if the following members would bring cookies for our refreshment time at our March, 1988 meeting.

Mr. & Mrs. David Congleton  
Mr. Ernest Cornolo  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Day, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Dickerson  
Ms. Irene Dobkin

Ms. Frances Edenstrom  
Mr. Norman Fang  
Mr. David Fourer  
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Field  
Mr. Don Fraser

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9:30 - 5:00 Closed  
Sunday

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SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY, INC.



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