



# Orange County Orchid Society

# RANGER

## January 2008 Meeting

Volume 62, Issue 1

### Come One – Come All

(Editor)

This month, at our meeting, we will not be having any of the following activities normally made available to our members:

- Beginner's Table;
- Sales Table;
- Opportunity Table;
- Plant Judging or our Library collection

We will, however, be having the highlight of the whole year for our society: our annual auction.

The meeting will be starting earlier than normal and may continue a little later. We will, therefore, require great amounts of sustenance to keep our energy levels at peak performance. The society will, as usual, supply the drinks and condiments. As refreshments will be available throughout the meeting, it would be greatly appreciated if we could all try to

bring some goodies to keep us revved and ready for paddle activities. So please remember, bunches of munchies!

Oh, and don't forget your calisthenics for peak paddle performance. Up, down; up, down; up and up; and repeat; now switch hands and repeat.

Good hunting to all. See you there.



### President's Message

By Brenda Ward

### Happy New Year

May 2008 bring you many, many happy and healthy orchids. You can make this wish come true by coming to our auction on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We have generous vendors and members who donated plants, planting materials, and gift certificates. Come and be frivolous. Take these orchids home with you.

The auction is our only fundraiser to subsidize our operating expenses.

### Table of Contents

This Month's Auction Meeting	Page 1
President's Message	Page 1
Special Note	Page 2
Anniversary	Page 2
Thank You	Page 3
Helping Hands	Page 3
Pests in our Midst	Page 3
Judging Results	Page 5
Fascination of Orchids Show	Page 5
Upcoming Events	Page 6
Santa Cruz Orchid Show Map	e-edition
Judging Results Pictures	e-edition

### Next Meeting

**January 16, 2008**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month)

**Yorba Linda  
Public Library**  
18181 Imperial Hwy  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

**5:00 p.m.**  
Set-Up

**6:30 p.m.**  
Viewing

**7:00 p.m.**  
Auction Begins

### Officers

President	Brenda Ward
First Vice President	Mamie Nash
Second Vice President	Ron Nash
Corporate Secretary	Janet Roberson
Treasurer	Susan Scheffler
Membership Secretary	Candy Jester

### Directors

Class of 2008	Jan Hennessey
	Anne-Line Anderson
Class of 2009	Jeane Keslinke
	Dan Warren
Class of 2010	Nohline L'Ecuyer
	Joy Keyser

### Chairpersons

AOS Representative	Jan Hennessey
Auction in January	Vacant
Awards	Nohline L'Ecuyer
Beginner's Table	Vergil Hettick
	Jeane Keslinke
Education	Bill Austin
	Dorothy Goldberg
Fascination of Orchids	Nohline L'Ecuyer
Historian	Jan Hennessey
Librarian	Dan Warren
Meeting Facilitator	Ted Matsudaira
Orchid Digest Rep	Roy Schall
Plant Sales	Marty Shipp
Publicity	Nohline L'Ecuyer
Ranger Editor	Janet Roberson
Refreshments	Ann-Line Anderson
Southland Show Rep	Brenda Ward
Sunshine	Candy Jester
Web and Graphics	Jerry L'Ecuyer

**Visit us at**  
**www.ocos.net**

Please invite a friend, a co-worker, or a family member to attend this event with you. I promise they will have a wonderful time. There will be bidding, eating, and camaraderie.



Our year ended with the potluck attended by over fifty members and guests.



Many came early to help set up.



*Dorothy Goldberg, Joy Keyser, Candy & Walt Jester set up the tables and put tablecloths in alternating green and red; Helen*

*White made the coffee; Nohline L'Ecuyer prepared the ham and the salmon; Susan Scheffler made the punch; Ron and Mamie Nash brought the drinks. Everyone brought the rest. We had plenty of food and fun.*



Dexter Friede

Our speaker, Dexter Friede, educated us on the use of fertilizer.



He brought many products about which to inform us and discuss options.

We learned about the new ones in the market, remembered the good stand-bys, and new ways of using the old stand-bys. The seaweed extract was the most popular choice.



Free samples from New Age and Grow More

Everyone who attended received one pack of sample potting mix and one bottle of fertilizer. Everyone went home happy. It was a good way to end the year.

We will participate in the Fascination of Orchid event in February. Get your orchids ready for displays and ribbon judging. Please contact *Nohline L'Ecuyer* for pick up arrangements.

As we begin the New Year, I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to everyone. You all have been very supportive and responsive. Because of your continued support, we had a good year. Thank you very much.

Have a wonderful 2008!



Graphics courtesy freecodesource.com  
Photos of meeting courtesy Hal Buist

**Special Note**

We will need extra time to set up for the auction. We will be starting at 5:00 p.m. and could use all the help we can get.

**Member Anniversary**

Lois Shea – 15 years

## Thank You

Let us thank

- *Nohline L'Ecuyer* for offering her home for the board meeting
- *Nohline L'Ecuyer* for preparing the ham and salmon
- *Helen White* for making the coffee
- *Joy Keyser* for her assistance with the set-up
- *Dorothy Goldberg* for her assistance with the set-up
- *Candy and Walt Jester* for their assistance with the set-up
- *Susan Scheffler* for making the punch
- *Ron and Mamie Nash* for bringing the drinks
- Everyone for participating

### Helping Hands

By Brenda Ward

Pictures courtesy of *Brenda Ward*

From time to time our society forms a committee to give aide to members who request help with his/her orchid collection.



*Tony Ort*

In the early part of December a committee was formed to give assistance to *Bill Austin*. There were four members in attendance: *Tony Ort, Jan Hennessey, Jeane Keslinke* and myself.



*Jan Hennessey*

There was not much to do as his orchids were in good health. They just needed some cleaning up.



*Jeane Keslinke*

*Bill* is recovering well. He was quite a conversationalist when I sat down and chatted with him.



*Brenda Ward*

He loves to have visitors come by. If you have time, visit with him or call him on the phone.

We had fun and got to visit with *Bill*. He is sorely missed at all the functions for which he normally makes time.

Hopefully, next year, he will again be willing to participate in the auction and maybe give one of his informative and humorous culture classes everyone enjoys so much.



### Pests in our Midst

(Editor)

I thought, since we are actually getting some rain again, we might discuss one of our more formidable orchid pests who absolutely loves this type of weather.

The gastropod mollusk, more commonly referred to as slug, is the critter-of-choice this month.

Slugs have gone through several evolutionary changes throughout history to lose or reduce their shell. Because of this, the various different taxonomic families of slugs are often not at all closely related to one another, despite a superficial similarity. The pests in our gardens, flower-beds, greenhouses and non green housed orchids are pulmonate land slugs.

Slugs are in a large group of animals known as mollusks which is second in size only to arthropods (crustaceans, arachnids and insects) to which three out of four animals belong.

Some species of slugs hibernate underground during the winter in temperate climates, but in other species, the adults die in the autumn. In our area, they probably just take a rest.

Their bodies are made up mostly of water and are prone to desiccation. They must generate protective mucus to survive. They produce two types of mucus: one which is thin and watery and another which is thick and sticky. It is very important to slugs because it helps them move around and contains fibers which prevent the slug from sliding down vertical surfaces. It also provides protection against predators and helps retain moisture. They also use it to get back and forth to prime feeding spots like a super highway.

Many species play an important role in ecology by eating dead leaves, fungus and decaying vegetable material. Some slugs are predators and most slugs will also eat carrion including dead of their own kind.

In a temperate climate, slugs usually live one year outdoors. In greenhouses, many adult slugs may live for more than a year.

Natural predators are frogs, toads, snakes, hedgehogs, eastern box turtles and also some birds and beetles. Natural deterrents to predators are the ability to make themselves harder and more compact and thus more difficult for many animals to grasp and also the unpleasant taste of the mucus.

The control techniques stretch from hand to trap and then to chemicals or compounds. Some of these raise safety issues and some really have no bearing in our situation as they are more for general gardening. They are as follows:

1. Reduce Favorable Habitat – Since slugs require moist soil or a sheltered site in order to hide, try to water in the morning to allow the area to dry by evening. Also keep area clean of weed remains, dead leaves and flowers or cuttings.

2. Trapping – The use of beer, near-beer or any fermenting food (such as a mixture of sugar, yeast and water) put in a shallow wide jar or tin in the ground will prove a surprise in the number of slugs that fall into the cups and drown.

3. Commercial slug bates – These are probably the most consistent and efficient method of slug control. Several baits or pellets are available which contain a molluscicide (a poison which kills snails and slugs). Since these poisons may be toxic to pets, fish and humans, carefully use the products as directed on the labels.

4. Seaweed – If you have access to seaweed, it is a natural repellent for slugs. It is salty and when it dries it is rough which the slugs do not like. The drawback seems to be a heavy layer around the protected zone (4” which will dry to 1”).

5. Copper strips (2” high) can be placed around flower pots or raised beds as an obstruction for slugs to crawl over. Metal strips can be set in the soil, on edge, as a fence. The interaction between the slug’s natural moisture, the ground and the copper forms a small electric charge which they will not cross. It is important to make certain there are no slugs on the inside of the fence when setting this up. Also, copper can cause a nasty cut with healing problems, so if you consider this, handle with care and don’t forget it is there. You also have to make certain no bridges form from fallen leaves or weeds.

6. Diatomaceous Earth – This is the sharp, jagged skeletal remains of microscopic creatures. It lacerates soft-bodied pests, causing them to dehydrate. A powdery granular material, it can be sprinkled around garden beds or individual plants and can be mixed with water to make a foliar spray. Use protection when applying (for eyes and lungs).

7. Lava Rock – The abrasive surface of lava rock will be avoided by slugs. It can be used as a barrier, but should be above surrounding level to keep a bridge from forming.

8. Salt – Direct contact with salt will, of course, seal the slug’s fate, however, even though it is supposed to take very little to do the job, great caution should be taken to not lose the plant.

9. Board – The simplest method is to place a board or something else for them hide under and check it periodically.

10. Visual – Two hours after sundown is a good time to physically remove the pests from plants.

11. There are new garlic and caffeine based products coming soon. Keep an eye out for them.

12. Iron phosphate is naturally occurring and has been proven to be safe for humans, pets and the environment and work at the same time. Slugs think it is candy, but get iron toxicity and die. So look for products that contain it.

The bottom line is that no matter what techniques you use, there can be no letup in slug control. Just when you think you have got them beat, a new crop comes along.

Reference information from the following internet sources:

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
Ohio State University Extension  
Eartheasy.com  
SimpleGiftsFarm.com

# Ribbon Judging Results

## December 2007 Meeting

<u>Genus</u>	<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>	<u>Cultural Award</u>
Cymbidium	Walt & Candy Jester	Marty Shipps		
Dendrobium	Marty Shipps	Bob Laughlin		
Paphiopedilum	Nohline L'Ecuyer	Dick Hess	Nohline L'Ecuyer	Nohline L'Ecuyer
Phalaenopsis	Nohline L'Ecuyer			
Laelia Tribe (lg)	Dick Hess	Marty Shipps	Doug Briney	
Laelia Tribe (sm)	Dick Hess	Bob Laughlin		
Botanical	Vergil & Marilyn Hettick	Bob Laughlin	Nohline L'Ecuyer	
Oncidium	Jan Hennessey	Vergil & Marilyn Hettick	Nohline L'Ecuyer	Jan Hennessey Vergil & Marilyn Hettick
Species	Doug Adams	Nohline L'Ecuyer	Doug Adams	
Vandacious	Joyce Wagner			
Novice	Myrna Carroll			

### JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD – Oncidium Twinkle owned by Jan Hennessey



### January Plant Judging

Pictures of Winners in the e-edition

There will be no plant judging in January.

### Fascination of Orchids Show

By Nohline L'Ecuyer

This is a reminder that the Fascination of Orchids Show is on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Orange County Fair Grounds. Plants will be needed for our display and these should be delivered to either my house or Candy Jester's house by February 5<sup>th</sup> at the latest. All plants must be cleaned, staked and be pest free in order to go in the exhibit.

We will need a spike of Cymbidium flowers for the display. We realize that it is a lot to ask someone to cut off a beautiful flowering spike, however, if you are willing to do so, please contact me at my home (714.936.4327) by February 4<sup>th</sup> to make arrangements. Your spike of flowers will be carried by 'Cupid' and will form the focal point of the display. So please, give this some thought and give me a call if you are willing to make this sacrifice.



# Orange County Orchid Society

c/o Janet Roberson  
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Society website: [www.ocos.net](http://www.ocos.net)

**The next meeting will be January 16<sup>th</sup>: Annual Auction (starts 7:00)**

Suggestions & contributions are always appreciated. DEADLINE is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Send to: Janet Roberson, e-mail: [ranger@ocos.net](mailto:ranger@ocos.net) or PO Box 872, La Habra, CA 90633-0872

## Upcoming Events

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| January 16 <sup>th</sup><br>7:00 p.m.                                | <b>Orange County Orchid Society – Auction</b><br>Yorba Linda Library, 18181 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda, CA 92886  |
| January 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>                          | <b>19<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference</b><br><b>"Orchids–Nature's Masterpiece™"</b><br><b>Sheraton Miami Exhibition Center</b>  |
| January 26 – 9 to 5<br>January 27 – 10 to 4                          | <b>2008 Santa Cruz Orchid Show and Sale</b><br>Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA 95073<br>General Info (Soquel High FFA – 831.429.3612)<br>Exhibit Info (SCOS – 831.818.9933) (map shown in e-edition on Page 7)   |
| February 4 <sup>th</sup><br>7:30 p.m.                                | <b>Orange County Orchid Society – Board Meeting – Nohline L'Ecuyer's house</b><br><b>Fascination of Orchids – plant drop-off</b>   |
| February 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup><br>10 a.m. – 6 p.m.      | <b>Fascination of Orchids International Show – "For the Love of Orchids"</b><br>Orange County fair & Expo Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626<br>Information at <a href="http://www.orchidshow.com">www.orchidshow.com</a><br>Admission \$5.00, per Adult – Parking Free |
| February 20 <sup>th</sup><br>Cultural 6:45 p.m.<br>Meeting 7:30 p.m. | <b>Orange County Orchid Society - Monthly Meeting</b><br><b>Culture Lecture: vacant at time of printing</b><br><b>Speaker: Karen Muir - "The New Generation Brachypetalums and Their Hybrids"</b>  |



# Orange County Orchid Society

e-mail Extra Edition

Reference: Page 6 – Future Events - Map

January 26 – 9 to 5  
January 27 – 10 to 4

**2008 Santa Cruz Orchid Show and Sale**  
Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA 95073  
General Info (Soquel High FFA – 831.429.3612)  
Exhibit Info (SCOS – 831.818.9933)



## Judging Results

pictures courtesy of *Nohline L'Ecuyer*

Reference: Page 5 – Ribbon Judging Results





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