



Orange County Orchid Society

RANGER

Volume 61, Issue 9

September 2007



We are very fortunate to have Tom Biggart as our speaker this month.

The title of Tom's talk will be "Australian Dendrobiums" and how to grow these cool weather orchids.

Tom Biggart is the owner and head grower of Granite Hills Orchids in El Cajon, California (a small town 15 miles east of San Diego). His nursery is a hobby business which means he doesn't make a living growing plants. It is more a labor of love! Tom loves plants in general, and orchids are his main passion. He is very interested in Encyclias and has a large collection of Encyclia species and hybrids. Also, all Dendrobiums fascinate him. The Australian cool growers are a current interest. He also has many cool growing Pleurothallids from

the Andes. These are more of a challenge in the warm interior valley where he lives with his wife. He is a retired elementary school teacher with orchids as his new students. He would love to have anyone stop by to talk orchids should one be in the San Diego area.

Tom started his Orchid love affair about 30 years ago after buying one Encyclia orchid with its tiny flowers. He has been addicted ever since.

If one addiction is good, two must be better, he also makes his own pottery to contain his orchid beauties. Tom has owned up to 5 pottery kilns!

Tom's eye started turning to cold weather orchids after spending a fortune to heat his greenhouse during the cold winter months. The Australian Dendrobiums and other cold weather orchids are hardy, easy to grow and best of all live outside and don't mind the winter months.



Cultural Lecture

Dan Warren
Our OCOS Library
Past – Present – Future

MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday
of each month
at

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

6:45 pm
Cultural Lecture

7:00 pm
Orchid Judging

7:30 pm
Guest Speaker

9:00 pm
Orchid Raffle

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
Past President	Thomas Raley

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 Shippis
Ranger Editor	Janet Roberson
Refreshments	Ann-Line Anderson
Publicity	Nohline L'Ecuyer
Southland Show Rep	Brenda Ward
Sunshine	Candy Jester
Web and Graphics	Nohline L'Ecuyer

**Visit us at
ocos.net**



Tom's Top Ten List of outdoor orchids are the following:

1. Reed-stem epidendrums are in constant flower;
2. Cymbidiums are another no-fail plant and fast growers;
3. Australian Dendrobiums bloom year-after-year from the same growth;
4. Laelia anceps (and its' hybrids) is a Mexican species that is very cold tolerant;
5. Cool-growing Dendrobiums from India are great plants, but a little harder to grow;
6. Cattleya intermedia is a large-flowered plant from Brazil;
7. Encyclia species has many that will grow outside in San Diego County;
8. Sarcochilus species produces many spikes of small flowers in the spring (from Australia);
9. Laelia purpurata (and its' hybrids) is the national flower of Brazil; and
10. Schomburgkia species, many of which do well in hot, interior areas.

Tom also organizes and leads orchid excursions to many places outside the United States.



The pictures are from Tom's website granitehillSORCHIDS.com

President's Message

By Brenda Ward

Wow, what a month. August was a busy month for us. We had a board meeting and prepared the 2007 – 2008 budget. Jan had an open house. Our newsletter went out on time. We had a culture lecture. Hey, we had a meeting place! Our web site is updated. We have a newsletter editor. The month ended with a fabulous, successful trip to Zuma. Life is good.



Bob Lauri introduced us to the world of Piperia, and Platanthera. He shared his experiences in native orchid hunting in the Western U.S. Yes, there are orchids that are native only to California. How about that? But, just as everywhere else, they are rare and they need to be included in the protection list.

Ed Wise got our Culture Lecture started again. I'm sorry it was not included in the newsletter. The newsletter already went out by the time we asked him. Thanks Ed for doing a great job with such a short notice.

Our speaker for this month is Tom Biggart from San Diego who will speak to us about Australian Dendrobiums. Tom will have a long drive home. Can anyone offer a room for him to stay for one night? Please contact me if you can host our speaker on Wednesday,

September 19.

The culture lecture this month will be given by Dan Warren. Dan's lecture will be titled "Our OCOS Library, Past, Present and Future." He will cover the recent changes made in the Library, all the different ways to check out books, and the new information added to the Library List. He will also talk about where the Library is today and where we intend to take it in the coming years. Be there and help shape the future of our Library. Join us to see what book is in store for you. See you at 6:45 pm.

I want to thank Janet for taking the job of the newsletter editor. It is a load off my shoulders. Please give your support to her by turning in articles, book reviews, upcoming events, pictures, etc. The deadline is the 25th of the month.

Kudos to Dan & Candy for their superb job in organizing the Zuma trip. It seems to get better and better every year. They worked hard on making the event a success and it showed. Thank you for a job well done.

Visit our website at OCOS.net. It has a new look. We have a new webmaster, Jerry L'Ecuyer. I have received many compliments on our website. Jerry and Nohline incurred all the expenses accrued on building the web site. Jerry stayed up many nights to get the site up and running. I cannot thank them enough.

The Southland Orchid Show at the Huntington is coming up. Sign-up sheets for volunteers are available during the meeting. They need volunteers for the plant hotel, host/hostess table, and ribbon judging. Please contact me if you are interested but will miss the

meeting. The theme this year is "Orchidelic". Make sure to get your orchids to Nohline for our display.

Thank you for bringing your flowering orchids and sharing them with us. They are beautiful and we enjoy seeing them.

Let Us Thank

- Susan Scheffler for working on the budget
- Janet Roberson for volunteering to be our newsletter editor
- Jerry L'Ecuyer for his wonderful work on the website
- Dan & Candy for organizing the Zuma trip



- Peter Lin for providing the plants for the opportunity table (partially pictured)
- Bob Lauri for speaking to our society
- Ed Wise for leading the culture lecture with such a short notice
- Jan Hennessey for asking Ed to lead the culture lecture
- Jan Hennessey for writing an article for the culture lecture
- Jerry & Nohline L'Ecuyer for opening their home for the board meeting and providing the munchies
- Susan Scheffler and Mamie Nash for bringing the soft drinks at the meeting
- Those who brought the munchies at the meeting

- Those who brought plants to the beginner's table
- Those who brought plants for the Plant table

If I missed mentioning you, please let me know. Thank you.

Member Update

Bill Austin's surgery was successful and his recovery is showing progress. He is staying at New Orange Hills Rehab facility on Chapman. His phone calls and visitations are limited at the moment. I will notify you when he comes home so we can visit. I am sure he appreciates receiving lots of cards. We wish him a quick recovery.

Culture Speaker Last Month

By Jan Hennessey

Thanks to Ed Wise for volunteering to give a culture lecture last month. We have some very valuable members with a world of experience and knowledge to share.

Ed told us about a timer device he uses on the his hose when watering so in the event that he forgets to turn off the water at the spigot, it will go off at a predetermined time. He also concocted a spray watering wand that could take off age spots. Not really, but it will take off scale and old sheaths from pseudo-bulbs. It was ingenious. As always, the interaction and question and answer session helps new comers as well as long time growers. Thank you Ed.

(Editor's note in e-edition on Page 7)

OCOS Zuma Canyon Trip a Huge Success

By Candy Jester

Thanks to 33 very active and interested participants, the OCOS trip to Zuma Canyon Orchids

was a tremendous success.

Members started arriving well before 10 a.m. and had plenty of time to admire the large number of beautiful orchids displayed in the main green house. It didn't take long to begin choosing our favorites and putting them aside.



George Vasquez gave us a very interesting tour of the three major greenhouses, explaining how the orchids, at various stages in their blooming, are moved from one that is warmer and more humid, on to another. He candidly gave us an orchid retailer's opinions, commented on his business practices and frequently left us laughing with stories about his celebrity clients. He also complimented OCOS on being a very active and growing society.



Lunch was the most delightful part of the day: A canopy of blue skies, a gentle wind blowing, and delicious food, wine and beer supplied by George and his crew. The best part was sitting down at sun-dappled picnic tables with new and old members of the Society, and getting

(continued on Page 5)

Editor's Note – September 2007

Hi everyone. This is the first month for me as editor of the Ranger so I hope you all like the results or at least have a little patience with my learning curve.

I was introduced at our last meeting and at that time I requested everyone try our e-mail delivery of the Ranger. There are many reasons for this request, some are as follows:

1. The main reason would be to save the large expenses incurred by the Club. The budgeted amount for the Ranger is much more than the cost of the facility we rent at the Yorba Linda Library each month. We have experienced increases in production costs in every area of publication – from the cost of the paper to substantial price hikes in postage.
2. You will be the first to receive your issue. I don't think you can get any faster than electronic delivery.
3. On the e-edition the background color (or paper) will not be in the usual 'orchid' color; however, there will be color enhancements throughout the newsletter itself, including the photos. The hard copy will remain as it is on the orchid paper.
4. Once the e-edition is received, you can opt to print in black-and-white, color or you can even save it to your hard drive and keep them from piling up on the coffee table or in the corner of the garage.
5. Of some concern for you could be the security of your e-mail address. There will be no access to the e-mail addresses except by the editor without your permission, with no exceptions.
6. There is a weight restriction for mailing the hard copy Ranger and since postage is a serious expense it must be kept in mind for what can be included in the monthly edition. That is not the case for the e-edition and I am seriously considering including some, if not all of the following ideas.
 - a. Whole articles could be included instead of just snippets as they are at present.
 - b. More photos could be included of club meetings, speakers, plant displays, sale tables, culture lectures or the library.
 - c. New sections can be created in which members can share particularly nice new plants or aggravating ones that don't know when to bloom so they can come to the meeting and brighten everyone's day and be judged.
 - d. Field trips, like Zuma Canyon, could have photos attached to the article.
 - e. Any kind of sharing, from trips, to shows to who-knows-what will be welcomed.
 - f. I also plan to send everyone who is on the e-list a reminder for the monthly meeting.

These are some of my thoughts, however, the real reason we should all consider this change is the cost to our Club.

The first month you would receive both the e-edition and traditional copy by mail. After receiving both, if you decide the traditional copy is still the one you want to continue to receive, all you have to do is e-mail me and let me know; otherwise you will continue to receive the e-edition and the hard copy will discontinue.

So, what do you think? Why not give it a try!

By the way, contributions, suggestions, corrections and even criticisms are always appreciated. I consider your comments to be very important. Without your help, the Ranger would be but a dry rag.

All you have to do is sign-up at the Club meeting; or, e-mail me anytime at ranger@ocos.net. You will need to give me your name and e-mail address. I would also like your address and phone number for verification purposes only.

If you do not have a computer, you could still receive it through a family member or someone else close.

Have a great day! Janet

Ribbon Judging Results

August 2007

<u>Genus</u>	<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>	<u>Cultural Award</u>
Cymbidium	---	---	---	---
Dendrobium	---	---	---	---
Paphiopedilum	Nohline L'Ecuyer	Barbara Olsen	---	---
Phalaenopsis	---	Joy Keyser	---	---
Botanical	---	---	---	---
Oncidium	Bob Laughlin	Harold Buist	---	Bob Laughlin
Laelia Tribe (lg)	Joy Keyser	Mary Rupp	Bob Laughlin	---
Laelia Tribe (sm)	Harold Buist	Anne-Line Anderson	Harold Buist	---
Species	Harold Buist	Harold Buist	Harold Buist	Harold Buist
Vandacious	Jan Hennessey	---	---	Jan Hennessey
Novice	---	---	---	---

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD – Aerangis articulata owned by Jan Hennessey
 (e-edition has pictures of the winners on Pages 9 and 10)

These notes come from our Awards Chair Nohline L'Ecuyer:

- The heat of summer seems to be taking its toll with not a lot of plants in bloom. However, to those who brought in plants for judging, we thank you – there were some wonderful blooms and the first place winners can look for their plants' photos on our website.**
 We did notice that a couple of plants were infested with mealybug. As a courtesy to your fellow members who are displaying plants, can we please request that you inspect and clean your plants prior to bringing them in for judging? **DO NOT** spray your flowers with alcohol or a pesticide – the blooms will die. Rather use a toothpick, cotton swab or paper towel to gently remove the offending critters from the blooms. Do not forget to remove dried sheaths and check the crevices of leaves where they can and do hide.
 We look forward to a wonderful display in September. (More about mealybugs in the e-edition on Page 7)
- There was a plant at the July 2007 meeting (in the parking lot) that competed in the Large Laelia category and received a third place ribbon. We need the name of the owner so we can apply the points toward the Ribbon Judging Results for the yearly totals.**
- Don't forget to check our website for the current month's winners and also the up-to-date cumulative totals.**

****Our website address is: ocos.net. The area is: Judging Results (for the results and point totals). The pictures of the winning plants and Judges' Choice Award winner is: Photo Gallery (then look for the event or date).****

(continued from Page 3)

to know one another better in a relaxed and delightful environment.

George supplied a raffle table of almost all blooming flowers, so it wasn't hard to choose your favorite. With our new style raffle, everyone happily went home with an extra plant or two for the price of a five dollar ticket.

As the day ended, the only problem we observed was smiling



participants trying hard to find space in their cars for all the gorgeous new acquisitions. For those of us who have been to Zuma Canyon the last three

years, we agreed that this was definitely the best of times!

Special thanks go to Dan Warren, who did all the negotiations with George Vasquez for this most enjoyable event (and also to Candy Jester for setting it all up).
 (More pictures in e-edition on Page 8)

Auction Chair

Editor's Note

Every year we have an auction which financially empowers our Club for the entire year following. Last year Jan Hennessey took the



Orange County Orchid Society

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ranger@ocos.net

NEXT MEETING OF OCOS: September 19th 2007

Suggestions & contributions are always appreciated.

Send to: Janet Roberson, e-mail: ranger@ocos.net; or PO Box 872, La Habra, CA 90633-0872

DEADLINE is the 25th of each month.

reins and did a marvelous job of organizing all our vendor information and giving us a new format (and floor mat). We all enjoyed a truly well-run and organized auction. We had hoped she would be agreeable to repeat this tremendous feat; however, she will be involved in relocation and will be unavailable for an encore.

This important position requires sending letters or contacting the vendors/donors for plant donations; plant pick-ups must be coordinated; and then, at completion, sending appreciation letters. There is a committee to spread the duties, so someone, please help us out.

Editor's Note

So, here we are at the end of our first sojourn, or are we? There is more to be seen, so, if you would like to see what the e-edition looks like, please e-mail me at ranger@ocos.net and request your very own copy, hot off the electronic wire. I will send you this month's edition so you can compare. I hope to hear from you.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---|---|
| September 8 th – 9 th
10 am – 6 pm | Orchids at the Village Show and Sale
South Coast Plaza Village
www.fascinationoforchids.com |
| September 19 th
7:30 pm | Orange County Orchid Society - Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Tom Biggart on Australian Dendrobiums
Culture Lecture: The OCOS Library |
| October 1 st
7:30 pm | Orange County Orchid Society - Board Meeting
Nohline's house |
| October 5 th – 7 th | San Diego International Orchid Fair
Quail Botanical Gardens
www.sdorchids.com |
| October 14 th
1:00 pm | Southern California Species Society Auction
Placentia Library
www.socalorchidspecies.com |
| October 19 th – 21 st | Southland Orchid Show – ORCHIDELIC
Huntington Library and Gardens
www.orchidshow.org |
| January 16 th 2008 | Orange County Orchid Society - Auction |



Orange County Orchid Society

e-mail Extra Edition

Culture Speaker Last Month

(referenced from Page 3) Editor's note

I missed part of Ed Wise's lecture, but at the end he made reference to keeping ferns out of orchid pots as they can choke them off and kill them.

I had a species plant in a hanging basket and had been casually giving consideration to reworking it. Two different fern volunteers had started growing from the bottom of the basket (on the outside) and after three years, it looked like a great big green ball. Surprisingly, the orchid didn't look any worse for the wear as it was still getting sunlight at the top. I had noticed it wasn't growing much lately, though.

Well, today I repotted it and I did not think I was going to be able to get it out of the wire cage much less do anything at all with the orchid. The potting mix (including the orchid) was a solid block with fine black fern roots connecting everything so tightly and thoroughly I was afraid it might be a lost cause.

It took me what seemed forever to finish and I ended up with seven plants. What a mess.

Thank you Ed; your very timely comments more than likely saved my plant (no matter how many pieces it has become).

Reference: Ribbon Judging Results, Note 1. Mealybugs

(from Page 5)



I was uncertain what a mealybug looked like so I thought I might not be the only one in the dark. After looking-them-up I found I did know these tiny pests, but I was used to the name 'wooly aphid'.

They have sucking mouthparts and can weaken and distort leaves and even kill the host plant. They produce large amounts of honeydew which can coat plants and surrounding surfaces. A black fungus commonly known as "sooty mold" grows on the honeydew. At the very least, mealybugs can make plants look poor. At worst, plants can be killed. The presence of honeydew and sooty fungus is one way to detect infestations of these insects.

Horticultural oil and insecticidal soap sprays are effective non-chemical controls for mealy bugs and other soft-bodied pests. Oil sprays suffocate the insects and can aid in controlling scale crawlers and eggs, while soap sprays cause the insects' cell membranes to rupture, effectively causing them to desiccate or dry out completely.



Orange County Orchid Society

e-mail Extra Edition

OCOS Zuma Canyon Trip a Huge Success

(continued from Page 5)



Pretty good looking group, all around.

Photos courtesy of Jerry L'Ecuyer.



Orange County Orchid Society

e-mail Extra Edition

August 2007 Judging Results (reference Page 5)



Jan Hennessey was the recipient of our new Judges' Choice Award

These are all available for viewing on our website .

They are shown as listed in the Ribbon Judging Results section.

These pictures are courtesy of Nohline L'Ecuyer.

The following pictures are the first place winning plants.





Orange County Orchid Society

e-mail Extra Edition



These pictures all look like they belong in a nationally recognized glossy magazine. How lucky are we?

Terribly Timed Troupes

The following decided they were not ready for their debut. They all opened within a few days of our last meeting. They are frustratingly owned by Hal Buist.



There are a myriad of possibilities for new topics and added information. All we need is your input.