



San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

March 2014

Volume 54 Issue 3

Meetings are the 1st
Wednesday of the
month @ 6:45pm

The Sepulveda Garden
Center

16633 Magnolia Blvd.,

Encino, CA 91436.

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All articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month.

San Fernando Valley Orchid Society

Our guest speaker on March 5th 2014 will be **Peter Lin.**

His topic will be **"Fabulous Specimens"**



We are happy to announce that our guest speaker on March 5th will be Peter Lin. Peter started growing orchids over 30 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 10 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again! He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His interest in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids and Neofinetias. He is also known as Mr. Sophronitis as he has a passion for growing and collecting them. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in three small greenhouses, outdoors as well as indoors under lights. Peter will present a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Fabulous Specimens". This is his latest program and we look forward to a colorful and interesting way to look at orchids.

Sale of Sound System

Your Society is offering for sale a professional sound system made by Yamaha. It was originally purchased when we were meeting at the Northridge Women's Club, and it was used only three times before we moved to our current location.

The system was purchased at West LA Music in March 2007 for \$897.32. It has a Yamaha Signature Server including a portable PA system, a body mike, stage pause 300, 2-way 8-inch system and the Original Owners manual in English, French and Spanish. There is also a carrying case included with the system.

We are offering to sell the entire system for half price. The unit may be seen in Northridge by appointment at the home of Marcia and David Melcombe. Please call (818) 349-8677 or email Marcia at marciafm@yahoo.com.

May Election of SFVOS Officers

We always appreciate and encourage all members to help guide the society. Our annual elections are coming up in May, and we need you. Please consider running for office or joining the Board. SFVOS Board meetings are always held the last Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. At this time, Marcia Melcombe is our gracious hostess and we are meeting in Northridge. The meetings are generally short and we close by 9 pm or earlier. Please consider joining the Board of Directors and/or running for office for your Society. Contact Millie Peskay or Marcia Melcombe for more information on how you can help your society to be the best it can be.

Upcoming Events:

March 14th, 15th & 16th: [The Santa Barbara International Orchid Show](#)

March 28th, 29th & 30th: [Art Mendoza Cymbidium Sale](#)

April 2nd: [The SFVOS Annual Orchid Auction](#)

(Note: This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please sign in to let us know what plants you can contribute to our auction. All donations will be greatly appreciated)

REFRESHMENTS

March refreshments will be provided by members whose last names begin with the letters "N through S". Friends, I believe most of us enjoy having a snack at the break. Each month we pick names that begin with a particular letter(s). It is usually three or four people, but last month only one person contributed. If it is your turn and you can't make the meeting, please call a friend and ask if they would be willing to swap turns. Also, everyone is encouraged to bring snacks to every meeting. Thank you.

Plant Opportunity Table (P.O.T.)

Our March POT will be enhanced by four cymbidiums from Art Mendoza's collection. This will give you an idea of what he will have on available at his March 28th, 29th and 30th Sale.

In the past Art has also contributed to our auction, so if you are in the market for cymbidiums please plan to attend his Sale and let him know how much we appreciate his support for our society. Please see the last page of this Newsletter for information on how to contact

Art Mendoza Cymbidium Sale at Art Mendoza's

March 28th, 29th and 30th 2014

Art specializes in Cymbidiums and is an award winner from the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. His business is located at his home, and refreshments will be served by his wife, Aurora. The various blooms are spectacular. Plan to get there early for the best selection. Please see his advertisement on the last page of this Newsletter for his contact information.

Help the SFVOS and get Free Admission to the Santa Barbara Orchid Show

If you would love to go to the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show in March, we have an offer you can't refuse. The SFVOS will pay for your attendance and parking fees in exchange for your procuring orchid plant donations from the various vendors and growers at the end of the show on the last day, which is Sunday, March 16th and then bringing them back to the SFVOS. Please volunteer to help your orchid society while having a great time at the show. Many of the vendors are anxious to donate plants in exchange for free advertising in our Newsletter.

We also need one or two people to "orchid sit" the plants until the SFVOS Auction on the first Wednesday in April.

If you are able to go to Santa Barbara, please contact Millie Peskay or Marcia Melcombe to get instructions.

SBVOS ORCHID JUDGING

Date: 02/05/14

Judged by: Sonia and Juana

Divisions (Alliances)		Plant Name	Exhibitor
Brassavola	1st	BC "Yellow Bird"	Kent Lovelady
Cattleya Alliance	1st	Cattleya - Unknown Purple	Pam Morse
Cattleya Alliance	2nd	Cattleya - Unknown Purple	Evelyn Miterai
Cymbidium	1st	Cym. Kiwi Midnight "Geyserland"	Bill Miller
Dendrobium	1st	Den. Australian - Light Yellow	Huongluu
Epidendrum	1st	Epc Rene Marques	Kent Lovelady
Epidendrum	2nd	Epi - Special Valley x Sun Valley	Kent Lovelady
Oncidium Alliance	1st	Oncda. chaculatum	Kent Lovelady
Paph & Phrags	1st	Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice "Condor Red"	Kent Lovelady
Paphs & Phags	2nd	Phrag. Hibrido "Carol Kanzer"	Kent Lovelady
Vandaceous	1st	Vandofinetia "White Crane"	Kent Lovelady

potting demos exotic displays flower arrangements

69th Santa Barbara
International
Orchid Show

March 14-16, 2014
9 AM to 5 PM

Earl Warren
Showgrounds
Highway 101
& Las Positas Rd

**Complements and
Contrasts**

General Admission: \$12
Seniors/Students w/ID: \$10
Children 12 & under w/Adult: Free
3-Day Pass: \$20 / \$17

www.SBORchidShow.com

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization

AOS Monthly Checklist for March and April-

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard Cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing. With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.



Left) Cymbidium Magic Mountain photographed at Longwood gardens. (Center) Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit' AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids. Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas (Right) Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem?

Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year.

Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy. The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold. Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water. Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season.

Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealy bugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

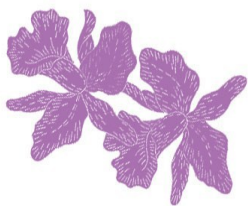
The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



SFVOS Newsletter
Millie Peskay
11175 Broadview Drive
Moorpark, CA 93021

Announcements

Please bring plants or anything else you care to donate. If you have extra fruit (oranges or the like) bag them in small quantities, so we can sell each bag for a dollar. Thank you for supporting your Orchid Society.



Daniger Orchids

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Ned Daniger

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Sunday & Monday by appointment

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