



# San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

April 2015

Volume 55 Issue 4

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 please join us for our  
*Annual Orchid Auction*



This year our society is proud to offer a great selection of beautiful, rare and blooming orchids. Orchid expert, Doug Overstreet, will be our auctioneer again this year. Doug is so knowledgeable about orchids, and he educates our audience on each item brought up for bid. This event is our major fundraiser for the year, so we are counting on everyone's participation at the auction. For those who are new, The San Fernando Valley Orchid Society is a non-profit organization that was established more than 55 years ago. We are dedicated to promoting the culture and appreciation of orchids. Each month we invite experts in the field of orchids to visit our society. Their presentations are interesting and informative. Proceeds from this auction help to fund our speakers and programs throughout the year. In addition to our live auction, this year we are also going to have a "Silent Auction" at the

back of the room. If you have not attended one of our auctions before, you won't want to miss it. Please tell all your friends, and we hope to see you there! Doors open at 6:45 pm and auction will begin at 7:00pm and refreshments will be served! See you there!

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We have been busy preparing for our upcoming auction. Many of our members have told us they will be contributing plants for the auction. Everyone is doing their very best. We do need a count so we can be sure there will be enough plants for the auction. Please call me if I have not spoken to you about your plants! You can also email me at: [peskay@att.net](mailto:peskay@att.net).

Millie Peskay



## 2015 Orchid Calendar of Events

March 25	<b>SFVOS Board Meeting</b>	7pm	Home of Marcia Melcombe 10014 Andasol Ave., Northridge, CA 91325 (818) 349-8677
March 27	Annual San Diego County Orchid Society Spring Show and Orchid Sale	3pm - 7pm	Scottish Rite Event Center, San Diego
March 27	OSSC Member Greenhouse Tour	9am - 1pm	<a href="#">Charles &amp; Norma Jean Johnson's House, North Hills</a>
Mar 27,28,29 <sup>th</sup>	Orchids by Art OPEN HOUSE	9am – 5pm	See Separate announcement in this Newsletter for details.
March 28	Central Coast Orchid Show & Sale: "ORCHID JUBILEE: Celebrating 20 Years"	9am - 5pm	<a href="#">South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande</a>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>The SFVOS Annual Orchid Auction</b>	7pm – 9pm	The Sepulveda Garden Center
April 11	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10am	<a href="#">The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino</a>

### Our Visit to Santa Barbara

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show was held in the Earl Warren Show grounds from March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>. The show was well attended, which shows that Orchids are more popular than ever. There were lovely displays of orchids in the Exhibition



Room and there were dozens of Orchid Growers and Vendors displaying their wares in the Sales Room. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were able to procure many beautiful plants for our auction. Several members of our society made the long trek up to Santa Barbara last Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to help us meet with our sponsors and collect plants. We wish to thank Marcia and David Melcombe, Millie and Bob Peskay, James Jordan, Nancy Copsey, Helen Brooks and Pam Aitchison for all their help at the show.

# WAITING... UNTIL MAY FOR THE NEXT SHOW AND TELL

**Due to our 2015 Annual Orchid Auction, the Show and Tell will be postponed until our May meeting. Please bring your blooming orchids for the plant forum. Everyone enjoys seeing what you are growing. You may enter more than one plant at a time and you will receive a free raffle ticket for each plant that you bring in to share with the group.**

## Repotting your Orchid Plants

Other than watering and occasionally fertilizing them, you probably don't look closely at your orchids all that often when they're not in bloom. Spring is the time to examine each plant with a critical eye to assess the need for repotting. It's also when you'll see the new growth that signals emergence from the dormant cycle—the best time for repotting.



**Is it new?** Holiday gift orchids or newly-purchased plants are often planted with sphagnum moss, which absorbs and holds water—creating prime conditions for orchid root rot. Repot all new orchids as soon as they're done blooming.

**When was the last re-potting?** Orchids need both the nutrients from the chunky, loose bark mix they're planted in and the air space in between the pieces. As the mix breaks down to particle size, it compacts the air spaces inside the pot—virtually suffocating your orchid's roots. Check the bark mix every spring and repot when you notice decomposition.

**Is it crowded in there?** While orchids prefer a small pot, weaving their roots through the compost as they grow they eventually run out of room. That's when their roots push the plant up above the rim of the pot or reach out into the air, looking for breathing space. This is sure sign that it's time to re-pot.

(Image Left) **Healthy orchid roots are white; pale green tips indicate new growth**

**Gather a few supplies:** Repotting an orchid sounds complicated and exotic, but it's a simple process requiring just a few items:

- 1) **Fresh bark mix.** The mix matters: some typical store-bought mixes deteriorate far too rapidly.
- 2) **A pot** that's one size larger than the original, in case your orchid is ready to move up.
- 3) **Pruners** and/or a **sharp pruning knife**, sterilized in a 10 percent bleach solution.
- 4) **Scissors** or a **razor blade** for trimming roots and leaves.
- 5) **Gloves** to protect your hands from splinters and prickles.
- 6) A thin **dowel** or **blunt knife** for settling compost around the roots.



**Get to the root of it:** Now comes the interesting part.

**Remove the orchid from the pot.** Roots can be pot bound and sticky; first try "massaging" the pot to loosen the root ball. Not budging? Work a dull knife down and around the inside of the pot, then invert it and tap the pot on your work surface to remove.

**Soak the roots.** Examine the root ball and feel a few root ends. If the root ball is stiff and dry, soak it in water for a few minutes to soften the tissues. Careful: dried-out roots can snap!

**Loosen and untangle roots gently.** As you do, trim away any black, hollow or soggy roots and remove the old compost trapped between the roots. Refresh the disentangled roots with a thorough rinse to wash away all the tiny bits of soil that can clog up breathing spaces inside the pot.

**Settle plant into the new pot.** Holding the plant in one hand, place the plant down into the pot. Pour fresh bark mix around the plant, using a dowel or blunt knife to work it all the way down and between the freshly separated roots.

**Water thoroughly.** Then test your patience: wait a full week or two before watering again—that break stimulates root growth in the new medium.

**Know your orchid.** While this basic potting method works for most orchids, some require special care, such as dividing or mounting. To be on the safe side, if you are fortunate enough to own rare and unusual orchids, please do your research before re-potting.

## The San Fernando Valley Orchid Society

meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month @ 7:00pm

**The Sepulveda Garden Center**

**16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA 91436**

President & Treasurer	Millie Peskay	<a href="mailto:peskay@att.net">peskay@att.net</a>
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**Cattleya Slc Endless Love**

### **Special Request re: Auction Refreshments**

Due to our auction, we will have more guests than usual at our next meeting. We would like to all ALL MEMBERS attending to please bring the refreshments for our next meeting.

Some suggestions are healthy snacks such as (cut up) fruit and veggies, chips, homemade goodies such as cookies and brownies and anything else you care to contribute. Thank you in advance for supporting your society.

SFVOS Newsletter  
%Millie Peskay  
11175 Broadview Drive  
Moorpark, CA 93021

## The Country Store

If you have extra fruit bag them in small quantities so we can sell each bag for a dollar. Anything brought in is considered a donation to our program, the purpose of these sales is to raise funds for our society. The funds we raise helps to pay for our speakers, insurance, the rent and the plants for our POT. Please be sure the plants are in good condition and are identified.

## Your Ad Here

In an effort to raise funds for our society we are offering advertising space in our SFVOS monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or are ready to place a business card sized ad in our publication, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Pam Aitchison by sending an email with your artwork to [pam@aitchison.org](mailto:pam@aitchison.org). The cost is \$25.00 per month, or \$250.00 per year.

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