



San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2016

Volume 56 Issue8

Reminder: No Meeting in August

It is our annual tradition to take the month of August off, so please remember that there will be **NO meeting next week**. We are certainly in the “Dog Days of Summer” here in the San Fernando Valley and our temperatures are in the triple digit range. It is literally too hot for man, beast or orchids. Whew!



Don't forget to protect your orchids from the heat and make sure they are properly hydrated. On that note I thought it might be helpful to everyone to find out exactly how to do that, so I am including two articles in this Newsletter from the American Orchid Society (AOS) on “Heat Stress” and “Dry Conditions”. I hope you find the information helpful. Stay cool and enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you

all at the next meeting on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 pm

President's Message

We closed out the year with a wonderful July meeting that was truly “Christmas in July”. We met some new folks and recognized a significant event with Mary Benavidez, who has experienced a century of life that includes a love for orchids. At the end of the night everyone left full of great food and having received at least one thing from the Society.

Our Society exists because we share a common love of Orchids and along the way, we have developed great friendships. As we look forward to more milestones, I hope that the joys of friendship continue to build and that we continue to meet new friends who come and join us and our Society will live long and prosper.

For the Society to give to us, we need to know what is needed. Do you want to get more information on how to grow specific types of orchids? Do you want more hands on demonstrations on growing techniques? Do you need “The Doctor is in” sessions where you can bring plants to find out how to grown them better? Help be able to plan our upcoming meetings.

Many thanks to Mark Bentow, who will be our Vice President and will help bring in some great speakers and topics for use to expand our knowledge and to Art Mendoza who will be our treasurer. I also wish to thank Evelyn Mitarai who is continuing as our Secretary and Marcia Melcombe who will continue as our Membership Secretary and Pam Aitchison who is helping transition the newsletter to a new editor (to be determined). I also wish to thank all of you in our Society who pick up the various jobs that keep the society going on a regular basis.

My special thanks goes out to our past President Millie Peskay and past Treasurer Bob Peskay whose love for orchids and our society is well known. Their hard work and dedication has kept the SFVOS going for many years.

I would also be very remiss if I also did not express my thanks and appreciation to the San Fernando Valley Orchid Society as a whole who have always been so welcoming when I have come to the SFVOS and shared my love of orchids as a speaker. It is this welcoming environment that will help us grow and enjoy such an intriguing hobby.

Arthur Pinkers



ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA COMING TO THE HUNTINGTON

OCTOBER 19-23, 2016

BIGGEST ORCHID EVENT ON THE WEST COAST IN DECADES!

The Huntington Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show (October 21-23) *AND* the American Orchid Society Fall Members Meeting (October 19-23) will be held concurrently at the Huntington Library, Art Museums and Botanical Gardens! Much more than just an orchid show, this orchid extravaganza will feature:

HEAR THREE DAYS OF ORCHID SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD: Come hone your growing skills and expand your knowledge of our orchid passion! Friday, Saturday and (a shorter schedule) Sunday will feature these and more fascinating speakers:

Alfredo Manrique: Phragmipedium kovachii culture

Fred Clarke: Catasetum Species, Hybrids and their Culture

Dr. Harold Koopowitz: Evolution of the Slipper Orchids

Janet Lamborn: Don't put on the virus blinders, your collection is depending on you

Dr. Daniel L. Geiger: Growing Orchids in a Terrarium

Carri Raven-Riemann: Phalaenopsis Species: From Mega to Micro

Garry Clark and Graham Wood: Award Winning Growers Choose Orchidata

Gustavo A. Aguirre: Columbian Cattleyas

Peter T. Lin: Small Vanda Species and their Hybrids

Hadley Cash: Marriott Orchids... The Other Side of the Story!

Hilmar Bauch: The Genus Cattleya

Andy Cameron: Genes and Ploidy in Cymbidiums

Pleurothallid Alliance: Sponsored Speaker (TBA)

Jonathan Robbins: TBA

AOS Members Meeting registration is required to attend the talks, and includes many other benefits!

SEE THE FABULOUS ORCHID SHOW:

Come see over 30 stunning orchid displays and exhibits entered by orchid societies and vendors! Oh, and did we mention vendors?! Come enhance your collection with irresistible little beauties from the following and other top vendors: Wilson Orchids (Taiwan), Cal-Orchid (California), Ooi Leng Sun Orchids (Malaysia), Norman's Orchids (California), Andy's Orchids (California), Ten Shin Gardens (Taiwan), Floralia (Brazil), CalWest Tropical (California), Orchid Conservation Alliance (California), Orquideas Katia (Columbia), Centro de Jardinaria (Peru), Marriott Orchids (North Carolina), Gold Country Orchids (California), Popow Orchids (Germany), Asendorfer Orchideenzucht (Germany), Mundiflora (Ecuador), Wing Studio (California), Agdia (Indiana), Orchidata (New Zealand), Orchid Design (California), and more to come!

Requires paid admission to the Huntington OR event registration OR qualifying free admission as a volunteer for the event (see below for details.)

GO ON TOURS OF THE HUNTINGTON'S THREE HUGE "OFF EXHIBIT" ORCHID GREENHOUSES

See the amazing Huntington's amazing "behind the scenes" collection of over 10,000 orchids, which have received 72 awards from the American Orchid Society (including five FCCs) since 2014.

AOS Members Meeting Event registration required

Huntington Orchid Show and Fall Member's Meeting Continued:

PARTICIPATE IN RIBBON JUDGING, AND/OR OBSERVE AN AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY JUDGING

During ribbon judging, you can join a group other of orchid enthusiasts working informally under the guidance of a supportive expert to evaluate the plants entered for ribbon judging at the show. *No experience required* – this is a learning opportunity and you can ask all of the questions you want! Later, you can also discreetly observe an American Orchid Society judging, where accredited judges with years of experience compare the entered show plants to database records and photographs of all similar plants that have ever been evaluated by the AOS.

[Free Admission](#)

ENJOY AN ELEGANT DINNER AND/OR A VARIETY OF OTHER AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The American Orchid Society management and members gather twice a year to both celebrate their orchid passion and conduct the work that makes the operations of organization possible. This is your chance to visit and participate with the AOS!

Requires AOS Members Meeting event registration and prior additional payment for meals associated with certain specific events

HAVE FUN VOLUNTEERING AT THE SHOW AND MEETING!! HELP THE HUNTINGTON GROW ORCHID PASSION LOCALLY!

There will be a myriad of opportunities for volunteers to staff information desks, act as exhibit room docents, help with greenhouse tours, staff the plant hotel, assist with setup and teardown and many other tasks. Online volunteer registration will soon be available, and volunteers will be able to pick their choice of jobs and three-hour time slots!

All volunteers will receive a qualifying free admission to the Show, vendors, and grounds only (does not include the AOS Members Meeting and speakers). Your volunteer badge will entitle you to free admission to the Huntington grounds (including the library, art museums, gardens, orchid displays and judgments) from October 19-23. AOS Members Meeting (separate) event registration will be required for admission to the speakers talks as well as banquets and meals.

TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT OR FIND MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.AOSFALL2016.COM.

TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE ORCHID SHOW OR TO BE A RIBBON JUDGE, GO TO www.signup.com/go/kV6Q9S

Renew your SFVOS Membership Dues

It's the start of our new fiscal Year which means it's time to renew your membership dues. The SFVOS fiscal years runs from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Our annual dues are payable on July 1st each year. The dues schedule remains unchanged. With so many exciting changes in the works this is a great time to be a member.

\$35.00 per individual membership

\$45.00 for two or more individuals in the same household

To pay your dues, please write a check made payable to the San Fernando Valley Orchid Society, or bring cash. Please seek out our Membership Chairperson, Marcia Melcombe, at the next meeting to pay your dues, or answer any questions you may have.

A Message from our Past President Millie Peskay

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your president for the last six years. I leave the office with confidence in our new president, Arthur Pinkers, and the board of Directors. They are already enthusiastic about making a better and larger society.

Switching from an auction to a plant sale as our primary fundraising activity was not as successful as we had hoped but we learned a great deal (such as avoiding April showers) and, if we try again this year, I believe we will do much better.

Everybody has pitched in to help over the years and I must particularly give big thanks to several people. Vice President Pam Aitchison has been an active participant in every activity and event. I found that her constructive ideas, social cohesiveness and supportive measures were of invaluable help in running the society. She is knowledgeable about orchids and was an outstanding speaker several times (without compensation.) She has done an amazing job publishing the Newsletter.

Evelyn Mitarai has served on the Board (and will continue) as Secretary. That Evelyn listens well and then offers her counsel has been very much appreciated. She has organized our several social functions and special events, working well with others.

Membership Secretary Marcia Melcombe will also continue on the Board hopefully enrolling many new members. Marcia of the perennial big smile generously donated her home for most of our Board meetings.

As Treasurer, Bob Peskay introduced financial reporting systems monthly for the Board of Directors and quarterly for the general membership.

John Noster has managed the P.O.T. drawings in masterful way. And special praise for Marie Feola, assisted by Juana Williams keeping us well supplied with refreshments (cookies and fruit and nuts and cakes and drinks andnobody went hungry) at every meeting.

Bob and I plan to continue our membership in the society with fewer trips to the valley. The geography and night driving was getting to us.

Thanks to everyone for a great experience and best wishes for this new year.

Millie Peskay



AOS Article: By Susan Jones

Heat Stress

Like people, orchids, especially those that prefer cooler, shadier environments, can suffer from heat stress during the hot summer months. The midday sun is intense, especially during the summer, and the high temperatures that bright sunshine brings can burn your orchids quickly, especially the more sensitive types such as phalaenopsis, pleurothallids, paphiopedilums and miltonias.

Heat stress is a condition that occurs in orchids and other plants when excessive heat causes an imbalance in transpiration, the process by which moisture evaporates from the plant's tissues. When that rate of evaporation exceeds the pace at which moisture is being replaced through water taken up by the orchid's roots, the plant becomes dehydrated — leaves soft and wilted, pseudobulbs wrinkled and ridged. The instinctive response in this situation is to overwater the orchid to correct the dehydration. This can instead make matters worse by rotting the plant's root system, further hampering its ability to take in much-needed hydration. The roots can only absorb so much water at one time. In addition to watering, control of heat and humidity play a significant role in the prevention and management of heat stress.

Placing a mounted plant in an empty clay pot can help retain moisture around roots. The microclimate of higher humidity helps prevent heat stress and aids stressed plants in recovering.

Signs of Heat Stress: These symptoms may appear singly, even in otherwise fairly healthy orchids. When they appear in combination, however, it is usually an indication of heat stress or an underlying problem (such as root loss) that has led to heat stress.

Yellowing of Plants and Leaves: Too

much light causes a plant's chlorophyll to deteriorate, which can turn your orchid an anemic yellow-green, and eventually cause premature loss of leaves. Most healthy orchids receiving appropriate light levels will be a robust light green.



Withered Leaves: The culprit, especially in summer weather, can be overheating. If your plant's leaves feel warm to the touch, they could be getting too much light, and need increased air circulation and shading, or a move to a more protected area.

Sunburn: Initial signs of sunburn, as in humans, appear as a reddish-purple tint or freckles on leaves and pseudobulbs. In advanced stages, leaf tips and roots may brown, flowers drop, buds blast or flower spikes fail altogether.

Shriveled Pseudobulbs: Your orchid's pseudobulbs serve as its water-storage organs, so shriveled pseudobulbs indicate a dehydrated orchid – it is in a stressed state, having used up its moisture reserves.



Leathery Leaves: This goes beyond mere wilting, and occurs in the advanced stages of heat stress, indicating severe desiccation and possible damage on the cellular level. Depending on how long the condition has persisted, the type of orchid and its overall health aside from the leaf damage, it may or may not recover once its leaves are parched.

Mounted orchids are particularly sensitive to higher temperatures and require additional water and humidity during hot weather. This Cattleya hybrid exhibits the yellowing leaves and wrinkled pseudobulbs typical of heat-stressed plants.

Prevention: Your orchids need lots of attention during the summer months, especially on hot days. With higher temperatures, orchids require more frequent watering to prevent dehydration. High temperatures quickly dry out mounted orchids, those in baskets and even potted plants.

Maintaining the balance between keeping orchids sufficiently hydrated and over-watering can be a challenge. A simple rule of thumb is that an orchid's need for water increases and decreases with the ambient temperature, so water thoroughly and more frequently during higher temperatures.

Most mounted plants and those in baskets, especially vandaceous orchids and other genera grown with little or no media, will benefit from daily watering in warmer weather.

In addition, keep humidity high and air movement continuous, as both of these factors help plants keep their cool on hot days. Adding a fan to the growing area, or locating your orchids where they receive the caress of summer's breezes, as well as spacing your plants to allow for sufficient air circulation between orchids, can make a big difference in their environment and overall health. This will also help to keep rots from fungi and bacteria at bay.

The benefits from misting orchids during hot weather do not have much sustained effect, so unless one has a misting system in place to maintain that added humidity throughout the day, it is probably not useful to your plants. When watering or misting, always be certain that plants have ample time to dry before night falls, so as to discourage bacterial and fungal growth.

When moving orchids outside for the season, start them out in a shaded spot and gradually increase their exposure to sunlight to acclimate them to the higher outdoor light levels. Make sure to protect them from the strongest sunlight as midday summer sun has more intense UV rays that can burn tender plants. Check the amount of exposure your plants receive at different times during the day as the sun moves, and throughout the year as the earth's orbit around the sun makes its gradual seasonal changes, which in turn changes the angle of the exposure your plants receive. For greenhouse growers, consider using shade cloth for added protection during the summer months. Windowsill growers may want to add a sheer curtain during the summertime to keep sunlight reflected by the window glass from causing sunburn.

Finally, always have someone care for your orchids while you are away on summer vacation.

Treatment : Once an orchid has suffered the effects of heat stress, it may take a long time to rebound. Apply fertilizers sparingly, using a weak solution, and flush the growing medium with clean water between applications of fertilizer, as the salts in fertilizers are difficult for dehydrated plants to assimilate, and a regular dose may further burn the plant. Be especially alert for pests on distressed orchids – insects and viruses are more likely to attack weakened plants.

Dry Conditions

Question:

In January, in Ontario, my furnace is running almost constantly and the air in my home is extremely dry. Although I struggle to keep the humidity up using all the normally recommended methods, there are times when it drops below 40 percent. Can you recommend species, entire genera or hybrids that will do well under my conditions (which surely must be shared by many others)? - **Gerard Brender**

Answer:

First, if you are managing to keep your humidity in the 40 percent or higher range, you will be able to satisfactorily grow all but real cloud-forest types. Second, a good place to look for such plants is your local AOS Affiliated Society, where you will meet other local growers who have discovered some of the best solutions to similar problems. I am sure that you will understand, though, that it is nearly an impossible task to list all satisfactory orchid plants for windowsill conditions. That would both be limiting and a disservice to plants that may be good, but were, for whatever reason, not on the list. A much better solution is to look at your conditions and try to match them with orchids that might naturally grow in such seasonally dry conditions.



There are many quite a few orchids come from areas where rainfall is quite seasonal, and the winter is normally a dry resting time. Look for plants from monsoonal regions or plants that grow in drier climates. For example, I have seen *Aerangis verdickii* growing in open woodlands in Africa where it might not get any moisture but nightly dew for more than six months. *Brassavola nodosa* and various *Schomburgkia* species grow in dry areas. Plants with seasonal growth, pseudobulbs and hard foliage are better candidates than those without one or more of those features. Just a few of the types that would do well for you are Indian dendrobiums, hard-leaved oncidiums, many cattleyas and some of the African angraecoids from drier areas. — The AOS thanks *Ned Nash* for this article.



2016 Orchid Calendar of Events

August 13	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10:00 AM	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
August 19	Orchid Odyssey	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	San Diego Zoo
Sep 7	SFVOS Regular Meeting	7 PM - 9 PM	Sepulveda Garden Center
Sep 17 - 18	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10:00 AM	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
September 16	Orchid Odyssey	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	San Diego Zoo
Sep 17 - 18	South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sales start 9:00	South Coast Botanic Garden
October 8	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10:00 AM	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
October 19 - 20 - 21	American Orchid Society Fall 2016 Members' Meeting	TBA	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
October 21 - 22 - 23	Huntington Botanical Gardens 2nd Annual International Orchid Show	12am - 4:30pm; Gates close 6pm	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino

Refreshments

There will be no meeting in August. We do, however, hope you will bring some yummy treats for our September meeting. Thank you for supporting the SFVOS.

Plant Forum Show & Tell

We will resume our Plant Forum "Show and Tell" at our September meeting.

At the next meeting, everyone is encouraged to bring a special or favorite plant of your to "show off". Always bring your blooming orchids to our Plant Forums. Everyone enjoys seeing what you are growing. You may enter more than one plant at a time and you will receive a free POT ticket for each plant that you bring in to share with the group. Don't forget your cameras too!

SFVOS Newsletter
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The Country Store

Donations are always accepted in our Country Store. If you have extra fruit, bag them in small quantities so we can sell each bag for a dollar. Bring in any unwanted plants or garden related items. 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.

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Thank you for supporting the SFVOS!

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