

San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

December 2014



Volume 54 Issue 12



Celebrate the Holidays

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Our December meeting promises to be lots of fun. There will be holiday songs, entertainment, games, great food and good cheer! We will be playing 3 BINGO games and the winners will each receive a beautiful orchid plant. To add to the festivities you may bring decorations for your table. There will be a prize awarded for the best centerpiece.

There will also be a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$15.00 and \$20.00. Turn in your gift in exchange for a ticket. We will have a special drawing to exchange the gifts.

If you have not signed up for the potluck, or if you have any questions, please call Marcia Melcombe at 818 349-8677 to tell her that you are coming. The SFVOS is providing the main course. You may choose either beef or chicken for your entrée and then please bring either a vegetable dish, salad or a dessert that would serve 8-10 people. Please remember to bring your own plates, silverware and serving utensils for your dish. Your society will provide the refreshments, cups, napkins and dessert plates.

Each "Membership" will receive a young orchid plant in appreciation for your support and participation in our orchid society throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our annual holiday celebration. Cheers!



Cattleya loddigesii

Calendar of Orchid Events

December 6,7	Casa de las Orquideas Open House	9am - 4pm	Encinitas, CA	Guest Growers: Andy's Orchids, Jerry and Anita Spencer
December 6,7	Rudvalis Orchids Open House	9am - 3pm	Encinitas, CA	Call 760 - 438 - 2121 for more info
December 6,7	Sunset Valley Orchids Open House	10am - 4pm	Vista, CA	Open House
December 13	AOS South Pacific Regional Judging	10am	The Huntington Library, San Marino	Huntington Botanical Center, Lower Level
December 19	Orchid Odyssey	10am-2pm	San Diego Zoo	The Zoo's orchid greenhouse is open to the public.
Future Events:	70 th Annual Santa Barbara International	9am-5pm	Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara	\$12 General Admission; \$10 Seniors, Students. 3-day pass \$20, \$17. Children age 12 and under Free.
March 14,15,16	Orchid Show and Sale			

What is in a Name?



Phalaenopsis amabilis



Phalaenopsis schilleriana 'Pink Butterfly', AM/AOS

Orchid names seem difficult to understand at first glance. First, let's review a little history on how they got their names. *Phalaenopsis amabilis* orchids were first described as a species in 1753 by Swedish botanist and zoologist Carl Linnaeus, the "Father of Modern Taxonomy." Referencing their native tree-dwelling habitat and pleasing appearance, Linnaeus called them *Epidendrum amabile*. During a mid-1750s voyage to China, Swedish naturalist Peter Osbeck, a Linnaeus apostle, is said to have inadvertently given *Phalaenopsis* orchids their common name, "moth orchid," when he peered through his field glasses during a stop in Java and mistook a large cluster of *Phalaenopsis* orchids for a flurry of moths. It would be another 75 years before German-Dutch naturalist Carl Blume would give these stunning butterfly-shaped flowers their modern species name, *Phalaenopsis amabilis*; but they are still fondly called "moth orchids" by their many devoted fans. Understanding Orchid names is not as difficult as it would appear. Let's see if we can break it down.

Part 1: Genus: In the example above, *Phalaenopsis* is the genus name. It is important to note: There are about 600 genera (plural of genus) in the orchid family. You may already be familiar with other genera – *Cymbidium*, *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Vanda*, *Vanilla* and *Dendrobium* are all different genera. Many genera of orchids can be interbred to create new genera. For example, when *Brassovola* and *Cattleya* are interbred, the new genus name is *Brassocattleya*. Another example is *Brassolaeliacattleya*, which are made from interbreeding three genera – *Brassovola*, *Laelia* and *Cattleya*. You can easily tell which genera are used to make the new genus because usually their names are just chained together. However, if there are more than three genera, the name would get ridiculously long, so the names are not just chained together when there are four or more genera. For example, *Burrageara* is an intergeneric hybrid made from *Cochlidia*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*. Usually when the genus name ends with "ara", that means the genus is made up of four or more natural genera. But sometimes you will find that some names that end with 'ara' are only made up of three genera. Also, instead of being written as "*Burrageara*", sometimes the genus name is written as "*x Burrageara*". Having an x in the front of the genus name is actually the proper way to signify that it is an intergeneric genus. Genus names are usually abbreviated. For example, the abbreviation of *Phalaenopsis* is *Phal.* and *Cattleya* is just *C.*

Part 2: Species or "GreX": In this example, the second part of the orchid name – *schilleriana* – is the species name. There are about 30,000 natural species in the orchid family. Species names are sometimes used in more than one genera. Species, by definition, are produced in nature. When an orchid is a man-made hybrid, the second part of the name is referred to as the "greX" name. Hybrid orchids comprised of the same combination of species (or hybrids) always have the same greX name. For example, the parents of *Brassocattleya* Maikai are always *Brassovola nodosa* and *Cattleya bowringiana* regardless of which one is the pod parent and which one is the seed parent. As a result, some of the orchids with the same greX name don't look exactly alike. How can you tell whether the orchid is a species name or a greX name (natural vs. man-made)? A species name is always in Latin and in lower-case, whereas a greX name is capitalized and is never in Latin. In reality, hybrid names are mostly very obvious. For example, when an orchid is named *B/c. Princess Diana*, you know automatically that it's a hybrid.

Part 3: Cultivar: A Cultivar (or clonal) name only exists for orchids that are somehow superior. Therefore not all orchid names have cultivar name. Usually breeders register cultivar names if they think the specific orchid has award potential. Cultivar names can be 'inherited'; if an orchid was propagated by division, mericlone or selfing, then it gets the same cultivar name because it shares the exact same DNA with the original orchid plant. The cultivar name is always in single quotes and is always capitalized.

Part 4: Award Designation: In the example above, the last part of the orchid name "AM/AOS" signifies that this cultivar is superior and earned an award. In this particular case, AM/AOS stands for Award of Merit from American Orchid Society. American Orchid Society has 10 types of awards that can be attached to an orchid name, but it also has other special awards an orchid can earn. The American Orchid Society has trained judges who will score the orchid plant based on various criteria. Orchids are then awarded if they reach certain points (out of 100-point scale). The most common ones are FCC (First Class Certificate), AM (Award of Merit) and HCC (Highly Commended Certificate).

The San Fernando Orchid Society is now on Facebook!

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to our member James Jordan, we now have a presence on Facebook. By interacting on this site by adding our photos and orchid information we will be joining the social media craze and possibly gaining some new members who may not be aware of our group!

You can visit our Facebook page and “LIKE” us through this ink: ([Press Control and then click](https://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Fernando-Valley-Orchid-Society/704469079635649))
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Fernando-Valley-Orchid-Society/704469079635649>.

You can also search for the SFVOS page while logged into your Facebook Account. **Please take a moment to LIKE the page.** This will raise awareness to our society by creating exposure through your contacts and raise our page in Google rankings! Once you LIKE the page then you can do many things to share your passion for Orchids. Take photos of your favorite plants and flowers to share with anyone who likes the page. Show your growing environment and tell us a fact or two about your successes so we can all learn about it! From time to time we will post photos of our meetings, presentations and events. **Many thanks to James for taking the time to bring our society into the 21st Century.**

To post a photo on the page:

Once logged in, you can search for the page. If you have LIKED the page you are able then to post comments and photographs. Go to the area that says Posts to Page. You can choose Write Post or Share Photo. Since our Orchids are so beautiful, I think we will use the photo area the most. You will tap share photo and it will automatically go to your image gallery. Choose the photo that you want to share. Then comment on the photo. If you are showing a prized plant make sure to add the name and any special growing tips you may have.

If you don't already have a Facebook account, you can create one. You will need an email address and to enter some basic information. Please follow the link below to get started. ([Press Control, then Click on the link](#))

[How to Set up a Facebook Account](#)



PLANT FORUM “SHOW AND TELL”

As you may know we have been holding our “Show and Tell” Plant Forum for the past few meetings. It has been a great success as everyone enjoys learning about the orchids just as much as admiring their beauty. Each member who brings in a plant will have the opportunity to briefly discuss the history and culture of their beloved orchids. Members are not required to speak.

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.

Help your Society Grow! Bring a Friend.

Remember that guests are always welcome.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to our monthly meetings and encourage them to join. If you bring a friend who joins our society, both you and your friend will receive an orchid plant as a thank you gift. Thank you for helping our Society!

Note: This offer is for “first time” members only, and does not apply to members who rejoin our society if their membership has lapsed.

REFRESHMENTS

The Refreshments for our Holiday party will be provided by your society. We will have coffee, tea, ice water and Jeanne Bain’s famous Swedish hot mulled cider called “glogg”.

All members are encouraged to bring other beverages to serve at our annual holiday party, such as sodas, lemonade or juice.

Our Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of the month @ 7:00pm at

The Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA 91436

President & Treasurer: Millie Peskay

1st Vice President: Falguni Trieu

2nd Vice President: Pam Aitchison

Recording Secretary: (open)

Corresponding Secretary: Evelyn Mitarai

Membership Secretary: Marcia Melcombe

Newsletter Editor: Pam Aitchison

Social Media: James Jordan

Board of Directors: (open)



The SFVOS
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11175
Broadview Drive
Moorpark, CA 93021

Plant Sales

Please bring orchids, other plants, and anything else you care to donate to our monthly meetings. If you have extra fruit please 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.

Starting January 1st, 2015, we are welcoming new advertisers to our Newsletter. For more information or to place an ad, please contact our newsletter editor, Pam Aitchison at (818) 406-5734. Thank you.

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