



San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2016

Volume 56 Issue 1

Guest Speaker for January 6th, 2016

James Rose of Cal Orchids

Our guest speaker for January will be James Rose, owner of Cal Orchids. Jim will open his presentation by teaching us the best way to re-pot our orchids. This is an important skill, and is a subject many have requested.



His main topic will be the "Orchids of Madagascar".

Madagascar is best known for its remarkable fauna, including the famous lemurs. It is also home to over 900 orchid species in 57 genera, many of which are as endangered as the lemurs. These orchids are so beautiful and unique.

You may be familiar with the story of "Darwin's" orchid. ***Angraecum sesquipedale***, which is also known as the **Christmas orchid**, **Star of Bethlehem orchid**, and **King of the Angraecums**, is an epiphytic orchid in the genus *Angraecum* endemic to Madagascar. It is noteworthy for its long spur and its association with the naturalist Charles Darwin, who surmised that the flower was pollinated by a then undiscovered moth with a proboscis whose length was unprecedented at the time. His prediction had gone unverified until 21 years after his death, when the moth was discovered and his conjecture vindicated.

These orchids are highly prized and hunted by collectors and the orchid trade. Additionally, much of Madagascar is rainforest, and much of that rainforest is disappearing. When the rainforest is threatened, the orchids that live there are also in peril. Some of the threatened species are *Angraecum longicalcar*, *Angraecum magdalenae*, *Bulbophyllum hamelinii*, *Grammangis spectabilis* and *Eulophiella roempleriana*.

Be sure to mark your calendar. You won't want to miss this highly informative talk and the culture session on "repotting".

(Lower Right: Darwin's Orchid: *Angraecum sesquipedale* and its pollinator, a long-tongued moth)



Upcoming AOS webinars

Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton
Thursday, January 7, 2016; 8:30 PM EST
Free for Everyone

Join Ron McHatton for a Q&A session on orchid culture. Everyone is invited. If you have a question, please submit your questions by January 6 to stillisch@cox.net.

[Register for this AOS Webinar by clicking on this link](#)

Judging Seminar: Judging Cymbidiums
Thursday, January 14, 2016; 8:30 PM EST
Free for Everyone

Please join George Hatfield, Accredited AOS Judge, who will discuss how to judge cymbidiums. Viewing this webinar will qualify to fulfill one hour of the required annual education hours for AOS judges.

[Register for the Judging Webinar by clicking on this link](#)

Brazilian *Cattleya* (*Laelia*):
A tour of the habitats
Wednesday, January 20, 2016; 8:30 PM EST — Members Only

Please join Francisco Miranda, owner of Miranda Orchids, for a discussion and tour of the Brazilian Cattleyas and their habitats. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

[Register for this Members Only Webinar Here](#)

Refreshments

Refreshments for January: Sweet and/or healthy treats (starting a good example for the New Year) will be the responsibility of Millie and Bob Peskay, Florence and Frank Shimizu, and Pam Aitchison. Anyone may bring additional refreshments and/or healthy snacks. They are all appreciated. Thank you for supporting your orchid society.

Treasurer's Report

If you have any questions about finances and/or wish to have a copy of the month by month financial report to the Board of Directors please contact me.

Bob Peskay peskay@att.net

Plant Forum Show & Tell

Please bring your blooming orchids for the plant forum next month. 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!

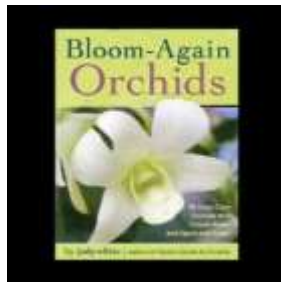
2016 Orchid Calendar of Events

January 6	SFVOS Regular meeting	7 pm - 9 pm	Sepulveda Garden Center
January	SFVOS Board of Directors Meeting	7pm	Home of Marcia Melcombe
January 15, 2016	Orchid Odyssey	10 am – 2 pm	San Diego Zoo
January 30 - 31	San Diego Orchid Society Winter Show and Sale	10 am – 5 pm	Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park
March 4 – 5 - 6	71st Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show	9 am – 5 pm	Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara

Book Review: Think orchids are fussy?

[Author and orchid expert Judy White is out to prove otherwise.](#)

Bloom-Again Orchids: 50 Easy-Care Orchids That Flower Again and Again and Again



By judywhite

Orchids have a reputation as the divas of the plant world: fussy, difficult-to-grow plants that — on top of all that — are prohibitively expensive. But there are plenty of orchids that anyone can grow. Orchids are no more difficult than familiar houseplants such as the African violet, and can be made to thrive and bloom in average indoor conditions. You just need to know what makes them happy.

Bloom-Again Orchids highlights the easiest, most fuss free varieties and includes invaluable tips on where to buy orchids and how to keep them in bloom. Each of the fifty profiles focuses on a commonly available orchid variety and includes a description, photograph, chart of basic growing requirements, and a handy twelve-point checklist.

So if you've always been intrigued by orchids but were nervous about caring for them, put your worries aside. *Bloom-Again Orchids* will turn you from a would-be orchid fan into the proud owner of healthy plants that will bloom year after year.

AOS Article: How to Pronounce Orchids Names



The names below are derived from the Latin and Greek languages and can, at first, be daunting to pronounce. It's easier if you remember that, with few exceptions all letters are pronounced. You will often hear names pronounced somewhat differently than indicated below as a result of regional differences. There are also pronunciations that are not technically correct but have found their way into common usage. The common pronunciation, **stan-HOPE-ee-ah** rather than the technically correct **stan-HOPE-ah** for *Stanhopea* is an example. This pronunciation has no doubt evolved because of the "pronounce every letter rule" although that would sound more like **stan-HOPE-AY-ah**.

(Left: *Lycaste skinneri* 'Heatherglenn', CCM/AOS – Grower: Glen Alm, Ontario, Canada)

Cattleya percivaliana (KAT-lee-ah purr-sih-VAL-ee-an-ah) and many of its hybrids (I)

Coelogyne cristata (see-loh-GUY-nee KRIS-tah-tah) (C)

Laelia superbiens (LAY-lee-ah sue-PURR-bee-enz) [also known as ***Schomburgkia superbiens***]

Lycaste skinneri (Iye-CASS-tee SKIN-er-eye) and many of its hybrids (I)

Trichocentrum cavendishianum (try-koe-SENT-rum cav-en-DISH-ee-an-um) [also long known as ***Oncidium*** - *Oncidium* is pronounced as on-SID-ee-um] (C)



Phaius tankervilleae (FAY-us tan-ker-VILL-eye) [the Nun's Orchid] (I)

Many ***Phalaenopsis*** (fail-en-NOP-sis) species and their hybrids (W)

Angraecum eburneum (W)

Angraecum sesquipedale (an-GRAY-kum sess-kwih-PED-ah-lee) (W)

Brassavola nodosa (bra-SAH-voe-lah NOE-dose-ah) (I)

Early flowering ***Cymbidium*** (sim-BID-ee-um) species and hybrids (C)

Dendrobium nobile (den-DRO-bee-um NOE-bee-lee) and its hybrids (C winter)

Epidendrum ciliare (I)

Laelia anceps (LAY-lee-ah an-SEPS) (I-C)

Many ***Masdevallia*** (maz-dee-VAHL-ee-ah) species and hybrids (C-I)

Rhynchostylis gigantea (rink-oh-STY-liss jye-gan-TEE-ah) (W)

Cattleya coccinea (KAT-lee-ah COCK-sinn-ee-ah) (C) and many of the miniature cattleyas developed from this species.



(Left: *Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'Annie', AM/AOS Grower: Jessie Stanley, League City, Texas; Above Right: *Epidendrum ciliare* 'Puddle Jumper: FCC/AOS Grower: Ken & Judy Russ)

Maureen Daniger

1936 - 2015

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Maureen Daniger, wife of former SFVOS President, Ned Daniger. Ned was our President from 2001-2003. Maureen had been ill for some time. She passed away peacefully at 79 years old. She was born the youngest of 7 children on a farm in Heartwell, NE, and raised in Burbank, CA. She worked for Security Pacific Bank/Bank of America for 45 years. She is survived by her spouse of 60 years, Ned Daniger, her children Craig Daniger (Pam), Karen Mayberry (Martin Courtney), Dave Daniger and Matthew Daniger. She was "Gaga" to her grandchildren; Courtney Broderick (Matt), Chelsey Gutierrez (Chris), Kaitlyn Mayberry, Billy Mayberry, John Mayberry, Collin Brook, Sierra Daniger, Trystan Daniger and Dakota Daniger, great-grandson Dezi James Gutierrez. She is also survived by her beloved dog Winky. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Ned and the entire Daniger family.



Cymbidiums for the Home & Garden

Cymbidiums are one of the most popular orchids, and are used as cut flowers as well as houseplants. They are among the easiest orchids to grow. Those who live in milder climates, like southern California, can even grow them in the garden. Their grass-like leaves make them attractive even when not in bloom. Plants vary in size from very large to miniature. Their flowers generally make quite an impact. Few orchids produce such a beautiful spray of flowers, and many produce multiple spikes on the same plant. However, there is considerable variation among this genus. There are about 50 species of *Cymbidium*, all native to SE Asia and Northern Australia. Many are epiphytes, growing on trees, some are lithophytes, growing on rocks, and many are terrestrial and grow in litter than collects on the ground. Most of the popular species and hybrids are derived from the terrestrial species. *Cymbidium* orchids are easily recognized by their relatively large, rounded pseudobulbs and elongated grass-like leaves.

(Left: *Cymbidium* Ice on Fire 'Nikkietta')

Temperature: As most originally came from the mountains they can tolerate cooler temperatures than other 'houseplant' orchids, especially in winter. Mild areas such as coastal California and Florida can grow these orchids as garden plants as they will survive light frosts. When growing them indoors, they prefer a sunny window. But if they are grown outside they prefer dappled shade, especially during the hottest part of the day.

Potting Mix: The growing media should be moisture retentive but well-drained. Try a mix of perlite, peat, charcoal or crushed pumice and medium to coarse bark. Take care to make sure you do not over-water. Fertilize regularly during the growing season but withhold fertilizer in the cooler winter months.

Humidity: Unlike many orchids which require high humidity to thrive, *Cymbidium* will tolerate normal household humidity levels.

(Above Right: *Cymbidium* Via El Dorado 'Amy Denise', B/CSA)



Selecting a Plant: Cymbidium plant size varies considerably. You can usually find large and small varieties for sale. Some growers have recently introduced hybrids that are small-sized plants with wider leaves and large blooms on short spikes. Flowers vary in color from pure green to white, pink, red, orange, yellow and even brownish-maroon. Blue is the only color that does not exist among Cymbidium.

SFVOS Newsletter
%Millie Peskay
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Moorpark, CA 93021

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.

Advertise with the SFVOS

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. The cost is only \$25.00 per month. Discounts available for yearly ads.

Orchids by Art

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