



San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2015

Volume 55 Issue 11

November 4th Guest Speaker: Tim Culbertson Lycastes

Although I teach middle school kids for a living, one of my passions has always been plants. I began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which my collection numbers nearly 1000.

While I love finding old, rare stepping stones in paph breeding, I also do a little hybridizing of my own, and growing up my own babies is a blast. I enjoy making my culture the best it can be, and I have had numerous experiences with professional growers in California and on the East Coast, which has helped tremendously.



I am the youngest accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have served in various capacities with local orchid societies. I love meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds me traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples' greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and to get the best orchid gossip. I like to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, I've worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids,

and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium.

For your meeting, I'll be sharing a presentation on recent advances in Lycaste breeding, culture, and growing. These plants are easy to grow and flower, are vigorous, and have low demands on culture, and as such are wonderful plants! Tremendous advancements in breeding Lycastes have been made recently, and I will share some of these with you, as well as help identify some of the important species in the backgrounds of historically important and modern Lycastes.

By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of what goes into breeding trends for these types of plants, as well as an appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth. I will be providing a plant table of the newest, modern, cutting-edge Lycaste breeding, with both blooming and un-bloomed plants.



KENT ADELBERT LOVELADY
1929-2015

We are saddened to announce that Kent Lovelady passed away last month. Kent was one of our most devoted and enthusiastic members, and was a member for many, many years. Kent was so faithful to always bring his beautiful blooming orchids to share with us at our monthly meetings. His orchids were always a highlight of our Show and Tell and Plant Forum displays.

Kent was always eager to lend a helping hand at our annual auction and at our monthly meetings. Kent also belonged to the Malibu Orchid Society and was very active in the Orchid world. He regularly displayed his orchids at the Santa Barbara and Huntington Orchid shows, and took home his share of awards and ribbons.

He was an excellent grower and always willing to share tips and advice on growing. The Lovelady's huge collection is varied and vast but he especially loved growing *paphiopedilums*, *phragmipediums* and small mounted species.

Kent was most famous for his *Phragmipediums*. I remember him telling me to always place a small water tray under each plant, because they love to have wet feet. Another tip he shared with us was to pay the extra money to get the best cultivar. If you want the best flowers you need to start with the best plants.

Kent and Melissa were world travelers. They have been all over the world and even delivered fresh fruit and supplies to the Palmer Station in Antarctica. Kent, and his wife Melissa, loved horses and the Lovelady family lives on a 12 acre horse property in Granada Hills. Kent built his own greenhouse and it is filled with about 400 beautiful and well-tended specimens.

Kent was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and will be sorely missed. From all of us at the San Fernando Valley Orchid Society, we send our heartfelt sympathy to Melissa Lovelady and their family.

Kent Lovelady photo courtesy of Birute Anne Vileisis, Ph.D., from the Malibu Orchid Society.

President's Message



On a beautiful and sunny day The International Orchid Show at The Huntington Library brought forth a beautiful and outstanding collection of orchids from growers in Southern California. It was easy to move from room to room to see the displays; some simple and some rather breathtaking. Some growers offered good sales of some of the more popular orchids.

In one room SFVOS member Melissa Lovelady was near one of the displays. On the table were three plants labeled "Kent and Melissa Lovelady". Each had a First Place Ribbon!

Kent & Melissa Lovelady's ribbon winners at the Huntington:

1st place	<i>Steno Verius</i>	<i>Jamboree</i>
1st place	<i>Bulb lobii</i>	<i>Kathy's Gold</i>
3rd place	<i>Phrag Belhava</i>	<i>Emma</i>

Congratulations to the Loveladys. Quite an accomplishment. Congratulations are also in order for Brandon Tam who organized the show.

Millie Peskay
President



Helping our friends at the Malibu Orchid Society set up their display for the 2015 Fall Orchid Show at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. From left, Pam Aitchison, Melissa Lovelady and John Delfino.

Our New Membership Directory

The 2015-2016 Directory will be out in a few weeks. Please review your listing and note any needed changes on the form which will be at the sign-in table at the October meeting. If you need to make any changes but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact:

**Marcia Melcombe (818) 349-8677 marciafm@yahoo.com or
Millie Peskay (805) 532-0080 peskay@att.net. Thank you.**

When making changes, please print carefully:

Name

Address (Street, City, Zip code)

Telephone number (s)

Email address

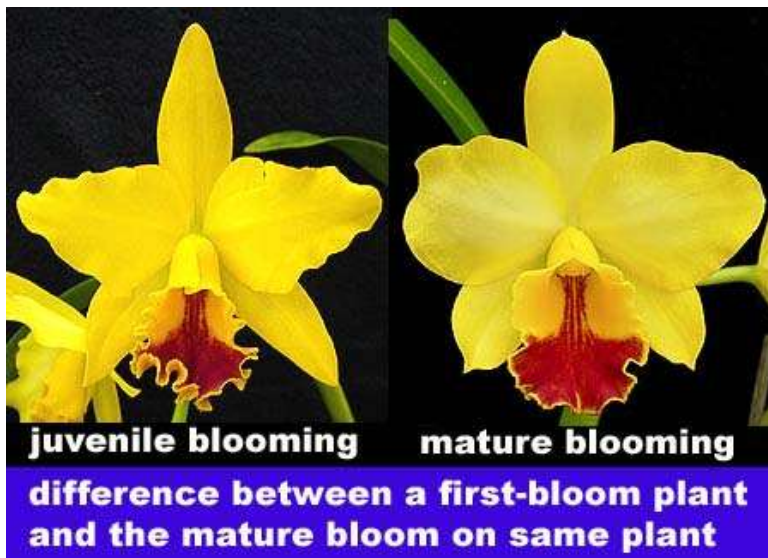


Refreshments

For the November 4th meeting Lee and Gloria Norris, Juana Williams and James Jordan will be providing refreshments for our members. Remember, any one may bring additional refreshments and/or healthy snacks. They are all appreciated. Thank you for supporting your orchid society.

Orchid Blooming Tips:

- ✓ Buy an orchid plant when it's in bloom.
Depending on the species, it can take several years for a plant to be mature enough to bloom. That way, you know the plant is old enough to bloom.
- ✓ If you use artificial lights to grow your orchids, put the lights on a timer for species that need short days to form buds.
- ✓ Orchids rarely, if ever, make seeds because each type of orchid needs a specific pollinator, and those are not present in homes.
- ✓ Many orchids have fragrant blooms but the fragrance is lost if the flower is removed from the plant.
- ✓ The **fall and early winter light cycle** is perfect for many orchid species. Try not to have them in rooms with artificial light at night if you grow orchids on windowsills.
- ✓ Orchids usually bloom once a year but blooms may last for several weeks.



Membership Renewal

July 1st was the beginning of our society's fiscal year, so if you have not already renewed your SFVOS membership for the current year please contact Marcia Melcombe as soon as possible. Her email address is: marciafm@yahoo.com. Dues are \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for an entire family living in the same household. That works out to be around \$3.75 a month. What a bargain!

We also want to thank our members who have gone above and beyond renewing their dues and have made cash donations to help us offset our deficit. We thank you all for supporting your Orchid Society. Every new member and their sponsor will each receive a certificate good for one 1-gallon Cymbidium orchid, courtesy of Orchids by Art in North Hills, CA, which is owned and operated by SFVOS member Art Mendoza. The SFVOS expresses sincere thanks to Art for this generous offer.

2015 Orchid Calendar of Events

Nov 4	SFVOS General Meeting Tim Culbertson	7pm	Sepulveda Garden Center
Nov 6-7-8	Cal-Orchid Fall Open House	9am - 4pm	Cal-Orchid, Santa Barbara
Nov 7-8	Annual Fall Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House	8am - 5pm	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate
Nov 14	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10am	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Nov 18	SFVOS Board Meeting	7pm	Home of Marcia Melcombe
Nov 20	Orchid Odyssey	10am.– 2pm	San Diego Zoo
December 2	SFVOS Annual Holiday Party	7pm	Sepulveda Garden Center
Dec 5 - 6	Casa de las Orquideas Open House	9am - 4pm	Encinitas, CA
December 5	Rudvalis Orchids Open House	9am - 3pm	Carlsbad, CA
Dec 5 - 6	Sunset Valley Orchids Open House	10am - 4pm	Vista, CA
December 12	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10am	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
December 18	Orchid Odyssey	10am.– 2pm	San Diego Zoo

AOS: Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya: Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids: One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium: Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Below: Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.



Oncidium crispum Complex: This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum: The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Right: *Neofinetia falcata* will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers



Phalaenopsis: Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

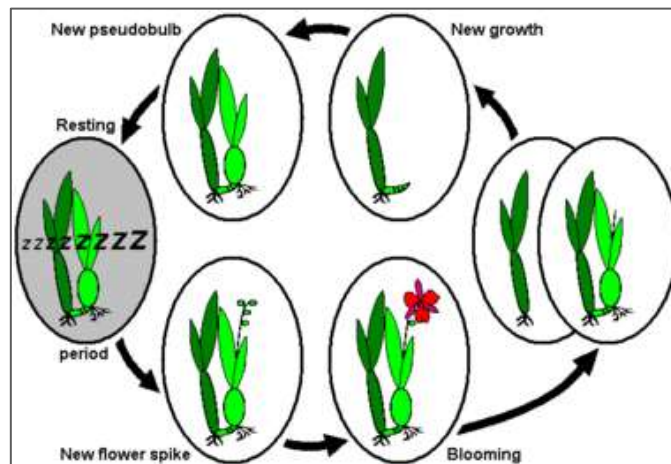
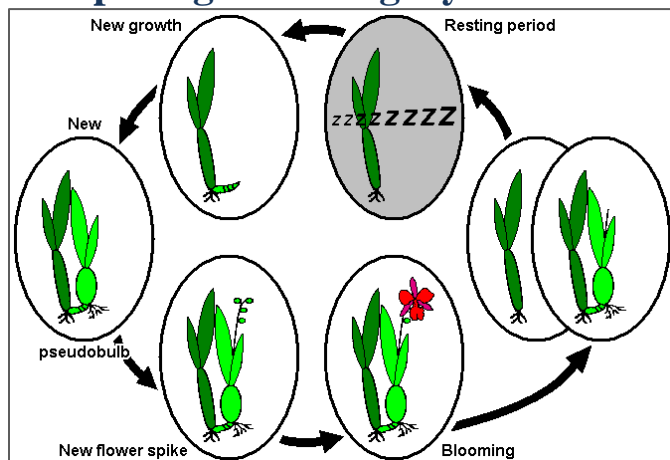
A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months.

Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera: Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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

Comparing Blooming Cycles



Left: Annual life cycle of sympodially growing orchids with dormancy after blooming, e.g., *Cycnoches ventricosum*, *Dendrobium nobile*, or *Laelia*. Right: Annual life cycle of sympodially growing orchids with dormancy after completion of new growth/pseudobulb, e.g., *Miltonia*, or *Odontoglossum*

P. O. T. OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

After much debate we have finally reached a consensus and have settled on the new pricing structure for our P.O.T. Opportunity Drawing. In the past, some members were winning most of the plants and others were left out. We believe this new structure will make the drawing fairer for all participants: 4 TICKETS FOR \$5, 10 TICKETS FOR \$10, 16 TICKETS FOR \$15, 24 TICKETS FOR \$20. The new prices will be posted starting at the November meeting. We thank you for supporting your orchid society and wish you luck in the drawing. If you have questions, please see our Treasurer, Bob Peskay.



Dyed Orchids: During the growth process, the stalk of a white phalaenopsis orchid is injected with a dye solution. The intervention is performed in an environment that keeps the infection risk for the plant at a minimum. The color is absorbed by the orchid and creates a colored flower. Subsequent flowerings will result in white blooms. The dye is not available to the public, nor are the exact steps of the procedure. Do-it-yourself dyeing is not encouraged, and at every home gardener's own risk.

SFVOS Treasurer's Report First Quarter 2015 - 2016

Income	
Membership	\$800.00
P.O.T	\$250.00
Bingo	\$87.00
Auction	\$28.00
Country Store	\$5.00
Contributions	\$124.00
Total	\$1,294.00
Expenses	
Rent	\$150.00
Speakers	\$325.00
Plants*	\$100.00
Printing	\$12.64
Plants purchased	\$381.60
Dues & Subscriptions	\$63.00
Postage	\$24.40
Miscellaneous	\$24.59
Total	\$1,081.23
* Brought by speaker	



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

Many orchids bloom in the fall, and from looking at the gorgeous displays at the Huntington Orchid Show last week, there are abundant orchids in bloom right now. Please bring your blooming orchids for the plant forum in September. 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
%Millie Peskay
11175 Broadview Drive
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

*Cymbidium Orchids
and Supplies*

Art Mendoza

(818) 903-0473

www.orchidsbyart.blogspot.com