



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

Neighborhood Community Center | 1845 Park Avenue | Costa Mesa, CA | 714-327-7525

March 2010

President's Message

WE DID IT!

I am so very proud of our society. I need to say that to every member. After many months of planning our first "Oceans of Orchid Show" at the Westminster Mall is now history. It turned out even better than we had hoped, and there are many people to thank for this. We could not have pulled this off without the combined efforts of everyone involved starting with the show committee who worked hard and spent many hours for the last year planning this.

Thank you to all of the NHOS volunteers who donated their time to work at the show and brought in plants for the display. Also I need to thank all of the orchid societies (eight in all) that put in displays and whose members also volunteered to work. Thank you to all the AOS and CSA judges who came to support our show, and judged and awarded the great variety of orchids. Judges told me they were impressed and

happy to have "Oceans of Orchids" kick off the start of the winter show season.

It was a pleasant surprise to have the Mayor of Westminster, Margie Rice, visit the show on Friday morning. She gave out the "Best In Show Award." Margaret Nerio invited Mayor Rice, and she also made an orchid corsage for her. The mayor and I walked the entire show talking with vendors and looking at all of the displays. She is a very gracious lady, and after spending time with her, I understood why she has been the mayor of Westminster for the past 10 years; she cares about her city and state.

She was overwhelmed and impressed by all of the beautiful blooming orchids, her final decision on her pick for Best In Show was a plant grown by Ha Bui that was in his display: *Laelia Santa Barbara Sunset* "Show Time." Next year we will have to add a new award to our list: the Mayor's Award. Once again, We Did It! and thank you, thank you everyone.

Culture Class

Tom Harrison, former NHOS president, will conduct this month's culture class. The topic is mounting orchids on cork and other media. This class was carried over from January.

To continue on a show related topic, the NHOS will be putting in a table top display at the San Diego Show, the last weekend in March. Set up for the show is Thursday March 25th. I am looking for several volunteers to help with the display. We will also need blooming orchid plants. Please contact me if you are interested. See you at the March meeting.

Denise Claycomb, President

"An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider all the other choices in life." Cora Lea Bell

March Speaker

Harold Koopowitz

"Creating the New Miniature Slipper Orchids"

Harold Koopowitz grew up in South Africa, where he did his undergraduate work in both Botany and Zoology. He then completed a doctorate at UCLA in 1968. A professor at the University of California, Irvine since graduating, he was also the Director of the UCI Arboretum for twenty years. He is Professor Emeritus of Biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCI, where he did research on conservation and ecology.



He is well known for his work on slipper orchids, both species and hybrids and is author of several books and a large number of research papers. His most recent books include

Orchids and their Conservation, *Clivias* and now *Tropical Slipper Orchids* for Timber Press. He is currently working on a new introductory book on slipper orchids as well as one on "Autumn Flowering Daffodils". Harold is Editor Emeritus of the *Orchid Digest*. He also writes fiction.

Harold is also very interested in other plants and also breeds daffodils and has an international reputation as a breeder of miniature daffodils. For many years he was a partner in Paphanatics, unLimited with Norito Hasegawa. He still grows and

breeds paphiopedilums especially miniature hybrids.

A member of the Species Survival Committee for Orchids for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Harold is on the board of Orchid Conservation International and is scientific advisor to the Orchid Conservation Alliance. In addition, he is a member of the International Orchid Commission.

Paphanatics will provide the raffle table.

Greg Fryling, First Vice-President

Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month

Culture Class at 7:00 p.m.
General Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

March Refreshments

The members beginning with **Else Olovsson** through **Helen Tangcay** are asked to provide refreshments for the March meeting. Thank you!

"OCEANS OF ORCHIDS" BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE WESTMINSTER MALL



Ron Dier, NHOS display designer, and his assistant, Rob.

FEBRUARY 12-14, 2010



Denise Claycomb, Phil Duke, and Ha Bui hard at work after the show.



Here comes the bride: Denise Claycomb and Valerie Sanders play dress up for the NHOS display.

Officers 2009-10

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Denise Claycomb

First Vice President

Greg Fryling

Second Vice President

Joe Rupp

Corporate Secretary

Margaret Nerio

Membership

Laura Perry

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Tom Harrison

Board of Directors

Ha Bui

Tina Coombe

Guy Gottschalk

Linda Iannelli

Nahid Khonsari

Michael Miranda

Ann Rupp

Rick Wells

Darrellyn Wood



Here come the Judges: Margaret Nerio, Ann Gazda, Arlene Wells, Kay Firebaugh, and Lily Hara help with plant registration.



A new version of the luge: volunteers combined work with fun. (L-R): Espie Quinn, Kay Firebaugh, Michael Miranda, Steve Kaufmann, and Eileen Kaufmann.



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Orchid photos courtesy of Nancy Benay's iPhone.

South Bay Orchid Society Bus Trip

The South Bay Orchid Society still has more room on their bus trip to the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show on Saturday, March 13. This trip is open to all orchid lovers! The clean, comfortable bus is the most hassle-free and fun way to get the show. The cost for the full day trip is \$36.00 per person and includes admission to the show, snacks and beverages and a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of the plants donated by the growers where we will be stopping to shop for plants and supplies (Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchids).

PARKING LOCATION: We will leave from the K-Mart parking lot at 500 Carson Town Center, on the southeast corner of Torrance Blvd. and Figueroa, Carson, CA. Look for the bus in the parking lot closest to Figueroa. If interested, contact Arthur Hazboun, SBOS Webmaster at specialorchids@southbayorchidsociety.com.

Orchid Trivia: A Short History of Vanilla & its Culture

At our February auction there were several pieces of vanilla auctioned off. While it is used extensively in our baking, perfume manufacturing and aroma therapy and is the second most expensive spice after saffron, I realized that I knew little about it. I've done a little research about its history and where it is grown, which I'd like to share with you. Originally native to Mexico, vanilla derives from the Spanish word "vainilla", little pod. Long cultivated by Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican peoples, it was introduced to Europe by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés who is credited with introducing both the spice and chocolate to Europe in the 1520s. Attempts to cultivate the vanilla plant outside Mexico and Central America proved futile because of the symbiotic relationship between the tliixochitl vine that produced the vanilla orchid and the local species of Melipona bee. It took 300 years to develop a hand pollinating technique that has allowed global cultivation.

There are three major types of vanilla, all derived from a species originally found in Mesoamerica, including parts of modern day Mexico: *Vanilla planifolia* (syn. *V. fragrans*), grown on the Bourbon Islands (Madagascar, Réunion, Seychelles, and Comoro Islands), *V. tahitensis*, grown in the South Pacific; and *V. pompona*, found in the West Indies, Central and South America. The majority of the world's vanilla is the *V. planifolia* variety, more commonly known as "Madagascar-Bourbon" vanilla. It has nothing to do with Kentucky bourbon but rather the name of the Bourbon Islands where it is cultivated.

Nancy Benay

The Roundtable Orchid Forum

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it turned out to be the busiest month on record for the NHOS with our show, annual auction, and finally the first meeting of the society's new Roundtable Forum. Despite the rain, a small group of us met at Ann and Joe Rupp's house on Saturday morning, February 27th. On the social side we enjoyed a tasty brunch and a tour of the Rupp's greenhouse, and afterwards we shared information about the plants we'd brought with us.

By noon we were done and on our way.

The next forum is scheduled for Saturday, April 10 at 10 am. We'll be talking about orchids that begin with "P"—*Phalaenopsis*, *Paphiopedilums*, *Phragmepediums*, etc., as well as any orchids that are in bloom whether or not their name begins with a "P." If you don't want to bring a plant but just want to come to learn and to enjoy The fun, that's fine too. And since Ann has "it down" the Rupp's graciously offered to host the next meeting. Mark your calendars for April 10th. We'll send out a reminder next month.



Roundtable:
Front row:
Nancy Benay
Denise Claycomb
Back row:
Merle Robboy
Rick Wells
Ann Rupp
and Joe Rupp

2010 Ron Capps Memorial Auction

Many thanks to all who worked on and helped support our annual auction. This was something of an experiment in that it followed by two days the "Oceans of Orchids" show. While there were plenty of high quality plants, many in bloom thanks to the generosity of the show vendors, and more attendees than in recent years, our gross of \$3,623.00 was less than last year. Buyers went home with some real bargains, but after all isn't that why people attend auctions?

All in all, it was an eventful evening; good eats, great plants and fun people.

Joe Rupp
Second Vice-President and
Auction Chairperson



Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, March 6-Sunday, March 7, 2010: South Bay Orchid Society Show, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA. Contact: Marla Corey, 1958 W. Summerland, Palos Verdes, CA 90275; (310) 707-7097; marla-corey@sbcglobal.net.

Friday, March 12-Sunday, March 14, 2010: 65th Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, "Nature in Harmony," Earl Warren Showgrounds, Highway 101 and Las Positas, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 65th Annual Santa Barbara. \$12.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and Students, Children age 12 and under, free. <http://www.sborchidshow.com/> Contact: Show Manager Randall Umland at sborchidshow@gmail.com.

Friday, March 26-Sunday, March 28, 2010: San Diego County Orchid Society's Show and Sale. "A Rainbow of Orchids." Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego along the 8 Freeway). Admission \$7.00, Week-end pass \$10.00. www.sdorchids.com

Saturday, April 10, 2010: NHOS Roundtable Forum at Ann and Joe Rupp's house; 10 am-noon. Bring a plant or two (if you wish) and a brunch item to share.

Friday, April 16, 2010- Sunday, April 25, 2010: Spring Open House, "Spring for Orchid Festival," at Norman's Orchids, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. 11039 S. Monte Vista Ave., Montclair, CA 91763. (909) 627-9515. www.orchids.com

Friday, April 23, 2010-Sunday, April 25, 2010: Orchids at the Flower Fields. 9:00 am-6:00 pm . General Admission \$10.00, \$9.00 seniors, and \$5.00 children 3-10 yrs. <http://visit.theflowerfields.com/orchids.html>



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Address Update Requested