

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR

JUNE 6, 2010
2 P.M.,

SPECIAL EVENTS:

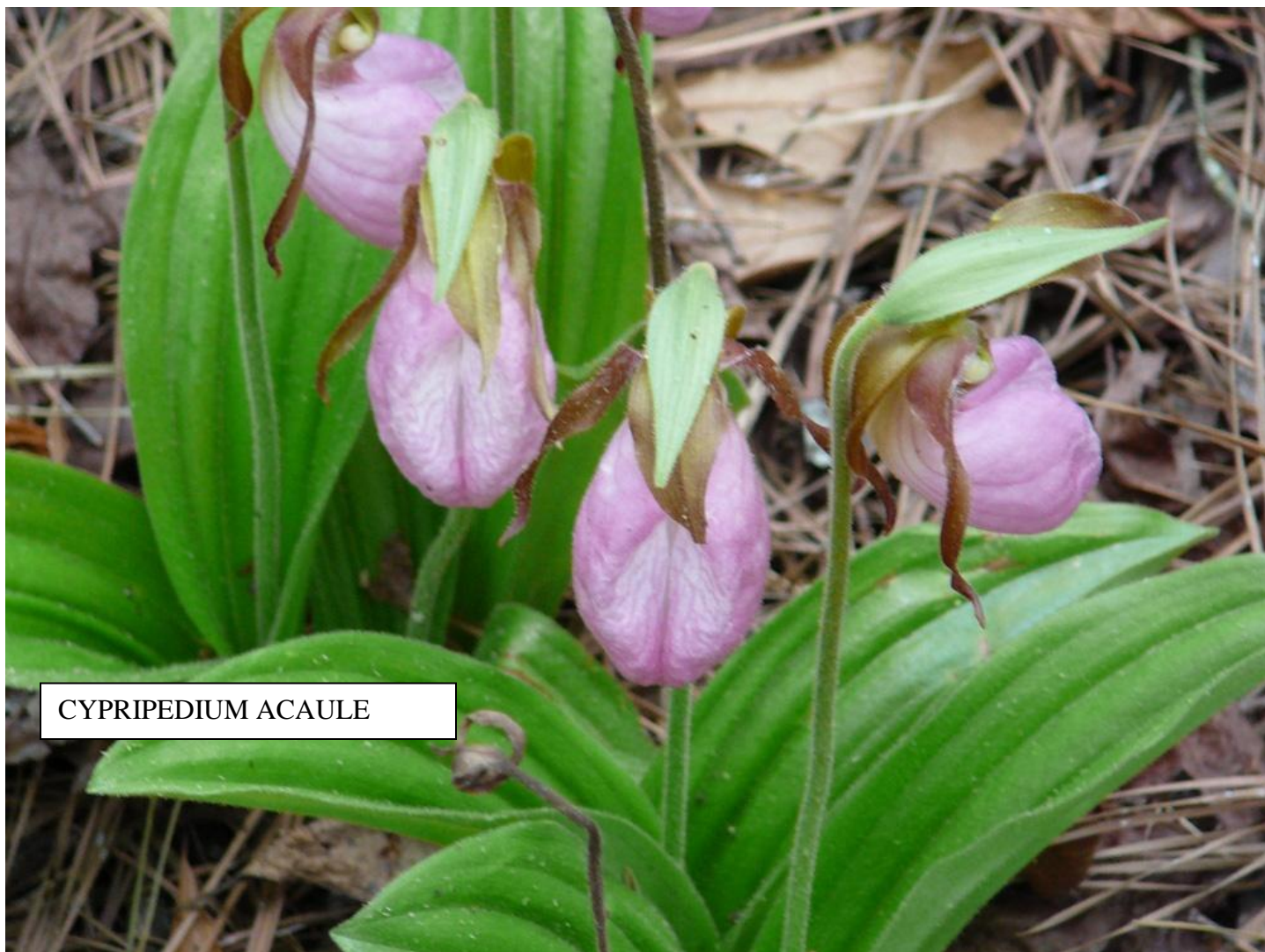
June 6, 2010
Doug Overstreet,
"Multifloral Paphs"
July 11, 2010
Cathy Loftfield
"You Can Photograph Orchids Too"
August 1, 2010
Barbecue Mt. Charleston
September 12, 2010
Alan Koch
"Cattleyas Big and Small"
October 3, 2010
Norito Hasegawa
"Phalaenopsis Species"
November 7, 2010
Peter Lin "Dendrobium"
December 5, 2010
11th Annual Holiday Party
January 9, 2011
Jason Fischer "Phalaenopsis"
February 6, 2011
Fred Clarke
"Cattleya"
March 6, 2011
Ron Parsons
"The Orchids of Crete"
April 3, 2011
Ron Coleman, "A Survey of North
American Native Orchids"
May 1, 2011
Karen Muir
"What Makes a Good Paph"
June 5, 2011
Greenhouse Tour
July 10, 2011
Carol Siegel
"Sex Life of Orchids"

EPIPACTIS GIGANTEA IS IN BLOOM!



On May 9, 2010, some of our fun-loving adventurers hiked into the hills of Red Springs in Calico Basin too see our native orchid *Epipactis gigantea* with guide Paula Garrett (Dan Mumau, John Keller, Greg and Lonna Clarke, Toby Librot, Ed McCormick, Myra Glassman, Diana Smith, Carol Siegel, Jim Cowan and Cathy and Jim Loftfield.) It was a glorious day with blue skies, cool weather, and magnificent blooming wildflowers. A wet winter had transformed the desert into a carpet of flowers, and we enjoyed every moment. In the shade of the sandstone cliffs, we had the thrill of seeing THOUSANDS of our blooming orchid, lips quivering in the breeze, flourishing in a tiny, wet hospitable microclimate (photo above Cathy Loftfield, to the left Paula Garrett). It was a last-minute trip, and we apologize if you missed it. We'll do it again!

Epipactis gigantea is sometimes called the "stream orchid" because it loves to grow in wet places along bogs, hot springs, road cuts and wet cliff faces. It is the most common native orchid in California and occurs all over Las Vegas where there is a little water- First Creek, La Madre Spring, Ash Spring, Pine Creek, Icebox Canyon, Spring Mountain Ranch, Sandstone Spring, and Blue Diamond. The plant grows to about three feet high with 12-20 flowers per inflorescence, each 1 ½ to two inches across. The sepals are dark green, and the lip is usually red, three-lobed in the middle, with yellow lateral lobes. Part of the lip is elongated and quivers in the breeze, hence the other popular name, the "chatterbox orchid" for its moving lips! The plant has ten or more green alternative leaves which die back to the ground in the fall. Come winter, you don't even know the orchid is there.



CYPRIPEDIUM ACAULE

Epipactis gigantea is certainly a gorgeous orchid. We are anxious to make sure that it is protected. Plants in our state parks cannot be picked or collected so it is a crime to disturb it in any way. Most of our 14 native orchids in Nevada, however, are little and green and not that showy. Maybe that is a good thing. Being beautiful can lead to bad things if you are a native orchid. The orchid above does NOT grow in Nevada, but it is certainly beautiful. There is an interesting website www.nativeorchidconference.com which deals with native orchids and their problems. A recent thread dealt with the problems of showy lady slippers like the one above. They are so beautiful that people collect them to extinction. I was at a botanical garden in Canada and next to the signs for slipper orchids, there were no specimens. When I asked the gardener, he said that they were so desirable that garden visitors would keep digging them up, and finally they just stopped putting them in the garden! As far back as 1927, Herman Pepoon in *FLORA OF THE CHICAGO REGION* said that college students and florists would gather the showy ladyslippers (*Cypripedium reginae*) and moccasin flowers (*Cypripedium acaule*) in Illinois by the hundreds and then destroy the colonies to prevent others from competing with them in sales. Pepoon observed a teacher taking out a carload of over 800 freshly-picked orchids to sell to local florists. Now, there are only four very small populations of the showy lady slippers in Illinois and none of the moccasin flowers left. It happens in other places, too. In "Wildflowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin," published in 1953, Jennings wrote, "The Pink ladyslipper (another name for *Cypripedium acaule*) was formerly the most common of our larger flowered, wild orchids, but its beauty has been its undoing, and it is now found only in unfrequented places." In Lancashire, England, the only remaining *Cypripedium calceolus* in the country is guarded by hourly security police patrols and surveillance cameras. The orchid has a unique log number on the police computer system! It is sad when native orchids are taken from the wild since their very demanding growth requirements are rarely met, and the plants most often die. We in our club are very interested in preserving native orchids. No picking!

MEETING NEWS-

We had a great time at our May meeting as Mike Glikbarg introduced us to fragrant orchids sold at his nursery Orchids of Los Osos. He sold his signature gorgeous orchids, and we opened our wallets to him. Thanks so much to Tony Billitterre for picking up lots of desirable hotel plants for our raffle and to all the folks who lovingly cared for them including Jackie Braverman. Thanks to Terry Wilsey (aanswertravel@hotmail.com) who patiently arranges travel for our speakers. We appreciate it so much! Think of Terry when you need to make arrangements of your own (731-2114). He deserves our support. Thanks to John and Judie Tuthill, Penny Senneseth, Toby Librot, Bruce and Katherine Weber and Bettye and John Williams for the delicious food at the meeting. We appreciate your time, trouble and expense. Kisses to the kind folk who came forward for June 6 food- John Keller, Pat Holland, Dan Mumau, Roberta and Fred Schechter, and Mary and Barry King. I signed up for July. I am it!! The only one... Won't you help out? The food adds so much to our meeting. You know. Dinner and a show...

Speaking of show, our June 6th speaker is Doug Overstreet (aka Doug Conkin) who will speak on multifloral paphiopedilum and bring plants to sell and for the raffle. He is the producer and star of the video "Everyone Can Grow Orchids" and is an associate editor of ORCHID DIGEST. His multifloral paphs are the stuff of legends, and he is an accomplished speaker and writer. You will enjoy him, I am sure.

On July 11 (the SECOND Sunday of July because of the holiday), our very own member, master photographer Cathy Loftfield will do a presentation on photographing orchids. In Cathy's words: The topic of July's talk is going to be "Close-up Photography of Orchids Taken Inside". I will discuss basic camera types (digital SLR and digital (point and shoot cameras). I will also cover framing/composing and focusing the picture. Also backgrounds, depth of field, lighting, printing and photo shop.

Next, we will provide a hands-on picture taking experience with the members. I thought we could set up three areas on the stage where members can take pictures. We can place table(s) on the stage and tack three different colors of fabric for backgrounds on the wall to complete the setup. If members want to use a tripod, I can bring 3 tripods. We could also set up a few more areas on the south inside wall of the building to take pictures.

Additionally, we must have orchids to photograph. We could encourage members to bring their blooming orchids to photograph. Oh gosh, don't forget to tell everyone to bring their cameras.

August 1st is our barbecue at Eldine Steven's beautiful home in Mt. Charleston. Dan Mumau, master chef of A Catered Affair, will be wowing us with his fabulous food. Bring a dish or dessert, and we will provide the meats and drinks. I will do a little presentation on TEN TIPS FOR GROWING ORCHIDS. Write a tip of your own and give it to me before August, and you will get an exclusive raffle ticket for a special orchid prize, and I will print the tips to give out.

OF INTEREST AND NOTE IN OUR WORLD....

The 30th Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

Friday July 9 & Saturday July 10, 2010, 9 AM to 5 PM-- Sunday July 11, 2010, 10 AM to 4

Thanks to Diana Smith and Jeri Lee for chairing a table at Plant World Nursery on Mother's Day to get the word out about our great club.

Thanks to Alex McKyton for maintaining our website www.glvos.com He is the best!

We appreciate Jeri Lee and Terry Wilsey for attending the Nevada Garden Club Meeting as representative for our club. We could not have better folks!

Congratulations to Roberta Schechter on her continued publication of her original articles in SOFT DOLLS AND ANIMALS magazine. Imagine- a real doll writing about other dolls!

Best wishes to Jackie Bravermann as she awaits the birth of her new granddaughter within the month. Our prayers are with you for a safe delivery of this precious addition.

Congratulations to Eileen McKyton for finishing her course of study to be a home association administrator.

Hope Dorothy Billitree is on the mend. It would be nice to see her at a meeting.

Hope Shelly North had a good time in the Bahamas. She loves the beach, and she got to WORK in the Bahamas...

We hope that Bill Doyle, member Leslie Doyle's husband, is feeling better now. We are so glad to hear he is out of the hospital.

Hope Lee White's having an easier time walking and will be able to come to our meeting. We miss her!

At the end of the newsletter, I have included an article on fidgeting with your plants. Hope you enjoy. I will also be sending newsletters and other links I think you might like.

With love always and keep blooming,
Love, Carol growlove@cox.net