

# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



## SPECIAL EVENTS:

March 7, 2010

Peter Lin

7"Mini Cattleyas"

March 21, 2010

Diana Smith, "What Kind of Orchid Is That" with potting demonstrations by Dan Mumau

**NO MEETING IN APRIL AT ALL!!**

April 2-4, 2010 Easter Show at the Cal

May 2, 2010

Mike Glikbarg "Fragrant Orchids"

June 6, 2010

Mike Blietz, "Encyclias"

July 11, 2010

Carol Siegel "Sex Life of Orchids"

August 1, 2010

Barbecue

September 12, 2010

Greenhouse Tour

October 3, 2010

Norito Hasegawa, "Phalaenopsis Species"

November 7, 2010

Jason Fischer

December 5, 2010

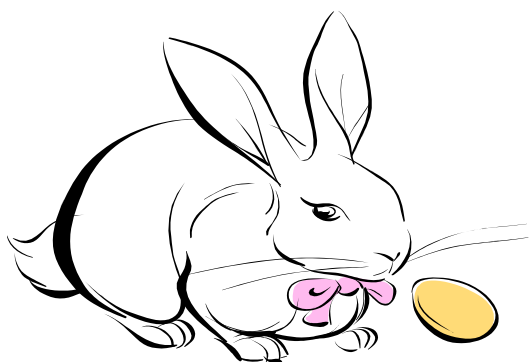
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Party

## CHANGE IN SCHEDULE FOR MARCH AND APRIL

There has been a change in schedule for the Spring meetings. Our March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held as usual. The April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting turned out to be Easter Sunday, and our speaker, Jason Fischer, (as well as many members) could not make that date. The Garden Center was only available in March and April on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, we will have a meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> AND on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and none in April. (This is in case you weren't crazy enough already...) Jason couldn't make those dates, and

Diana was kind enough to say that she would do her talk on "What Kind of Orchid Is That." We will discuss what makes a cattleya a cattleya and a phalaenopsis a phalaenopsis and all the others special, too. How can we tell what kind of plant we have even when the plant is not in bloom? Dan Mumau has kindly consented to do a potting demonstration in conjunction with her talk on how the different kind of orchids should be potted for their special needs. I think it will be fun, useful and appreciated- AND we have never done this before. Thanks, Diana and Dan.

Our February meeting proved once again that orchids trump football as people actually showed up at Superbowl for our meeting. Thanks to Lonna and Greg Clark, Jerry Lee, Terry Wilsey and Claudia Drake for the great food. Thanks to Tony for the lovely azaleas for the raffle and to Terry Wilsey for making the travel arrangements. I gave out orchid pens made by my grandson Jared, my 12-year-old as Valentine presents to members. Martin Motes did an interesting presentation on intergeneric vandaceous hybrids. All these plants are in the *Aridinae* subtribe. You can cross most genera that are in the same subtribe such as vandas, renanthera, ascocentrum, rhyncostylis, and paraphalaenopsis. In nature, these genera bloom at different times, have different pollinators, are separated geographically—but a toothpick solves all those problems!



**JUST TO EGG YOU ON IF YOU  
HAVEN'T PAID YOU DUES....**

## **DUES ARE DUE FOR 2010...**

Thank you to all the folks who have paid 2010 dues. (We liquor you up at the holiday party and then ask for money. Pretty smart...) Some folks have even added a small donation. Single dues remain \$30 with couples now \$45. We get free rent for our meetings by joining the Nevada Garden Club which runs our meeting hall. Our membership in the Nevada Garden Club has increased, however, from \$4 a member to \$6, including couples who are now \$12. If you would like to add a couple of bucks to your membership check, it would help. You can pay at the February meeting or send a check made out to GLVOS to Carol Siegel 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive Las Vegas, NV 89117. I pay for the newsletter postage and printing myself so if you are still getting a hard copy newsletter and have an email, please send me your email (Mine is [growlove@cox.net](mailto:growlove@cox.net)). If you have decided not to rejoin, please let us know. Thanks to Leslie Doyle for the lovely membership cards. If you did not get an orchid button at the party, you will get one when you pay your dues!

The Easter Show at the Cal will be held on Easter weekend as usual. It is put on by our friends at the Torrance Cymbidium Society. They don't want to have AOS judging this year so we will not since it is their show. We hope to put in a lovely orchid display and would love to have your blooming beauties. Set-up will be on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> after 4pm. You can drop your plants off at my house if you can't make it (254-4168) or bring them down and help. The show will be Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> noon to 5, and Saturday noon to 5 and Sunday 10-3. Takedown of the display is at 3 on Sunday. We will ask for volunteers to help and be ambassadors at the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is always a fun thing to do!

## PETER LIN SPEAKS ON MINI-CATTLEYS ON MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> DELIGHTFUL CATTLEYS IN MINIATURE

Peter T. Lin will be presenting a talk on one of his favorite topics: Mini-Catts, also known as miniature Cattleyas. Peter will be sharing a fast-paced Powerpoint presentation on these charming orchids. The journey will begin with a review of the miniature species, early hybrids, and then to some of the relevant hybrids of today. He will also review how to grow these wonderful plants. Peter started growing orchids over 25 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 7 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is currently a probationary judge with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other Orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various Orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has hundreds of photos of his orchids that he maintains on Flickr. You can view them by typing this address into the internet:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/> Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights. Peter will be bringing some of mini-catts for sale, as well as some miniature species.

As Peter says:

For the LOVE of Mini-Catts!

**So why grow Mini-Catts? There are many great reasons to grow miniature Cattleyas. How many of us have unlimited space or have trouble filling up our growing space?! If you're like me, we also yearn to acquire more and more orchids. So mini-catts are small and compact, and you can grow 3-4 of them in the space of a standard Cattleya. Most will begin blooming in a 3" pot, and will mature in a 4" pot. Mini-Catt flowers come in almost all colors, with an emphasis on red and sunset shades. There are also vibrant purples and bright yellows. There are showy splash petal varieties and cute ones with spots. Based on their species background, they can bloom more than once a year, sometimes up to 3 times! They also grow and bloom faster from seed.**

**If you grow orchids indoors, then Mini-Catts are perfect for the bright windowsill. They need a little more light than Phalaenopsis, but are otherwise just as easy to grow. An east facing window is good, or a shaded west or south facing window works well too. Due to the small pots, you will want to water about twice a week. As with most orchids, they will need repotting about every 2 years.**

**So try a few of these Mini-Catts and you will be hooked just like me!**

Our speaker Martin Motes did a discussion on **polyploidy** (extra chromosomes) in response to some questions on hybridizing. We have lots of smart people who understood exactly what he was talking about, but there were a few with a glazed look in their eyes. I have written something basic about polyploidy- "**Did You Know You Were 2N**"- that might be helpful to some "entry-level" geneticists. I have attached it to this newsletter in the e-mail.

See you at the March 7<sup>th</sup> AND March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

With love, Carol [growlove@cox.net](mailto:growlove@cox.net) 254-4168