

# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



**SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011  
2 P.M.**

## ***SPECIAL EVENTS:***

April 3, 2011

**NEW MEETING PLACE**

**EASTER SEALS BUILDING**

Ron Parsons

"The Orchids of Crete"

May 1, 2011

Karen Muir

"What Makes a Good Paph"

June 5, 2011

East Side Greenhouse Tour

Ole Borresen

Cathy and Jim Loftfield

Roberta and Fred Schechter

July 10, 2011

Fred Clarke,

"Growing Fabulous Cattleya"

August 7, 2011

Barbecue Mt. Charleston

September 11, 2011

Cathy Loftfield

"A Passion for Orchids"

October 2, 2011

Peter Lin

"The Three A's-

Angraecum, Aeranthes, and  
Aerangis"

November 6, 2011

Carol Siegel

"The Sex Life of Orchids"

December 4, 2011

Holiday Party

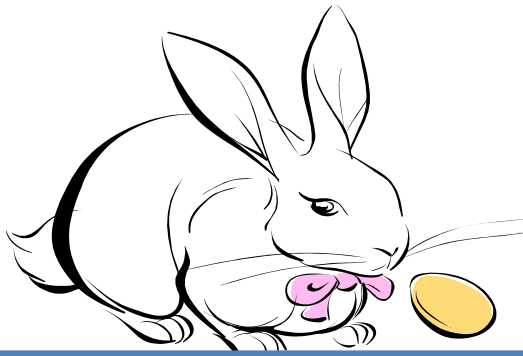
## **WE MOVE TO A NEW LOCATION ON APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>**

It's exciting! Starting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be meeting at the **Easter Seals Building 6200 West Oakey between Torrey Pines and Jones**. It seems that Lorenzi Park will be having improvements for at least a year, and they are using our building as a construction shed (to add insult to injury). The Board explored the new building with Steve Ninemire, building custodian, and it is quite lovely and is used now as a school for special needs children. It is warm & spacious with lots of landscaped grounds parking and, we hope, better air conditioning in the summer. There is a nice kitchen, too. There are tables and chairs outside so we can eat outdoors, weather permitting. We are grateful to Steve Ninemire, long-time member & director of the grounds, who helped us find this lovely place to meet. We don't know what we would have done without you. Steve will let us bring our library cabinet, too! The rest of the clubs are going to a recreation center, but they are closed Sunday, so we were on our own. It means that this year we are not part of the garden clubs, but when the building opens again, we can be. Here's to more good times and good friendships in a new place.

## RON PARSONS SHOWS US THE BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS OF CRETE

In April, Ron Parsons will delight us with his slides of the **orchids of Crete**. Ron is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids, wildflowers, and almost every other kind of plant for over 25 years, and has a slide collection that numbers well over 80,000 slides! He went "digital" just over a year ago, and in this short time has taken thousands of photos orchids, wildflowers and other rare plants. See the [orchid photogallery](#) for some of his new digital photographs. Ron loves to travel, photograph orchids and wildflowers *in situ*, visit orchid and other plant enthusiasts collections, and most of all, to take photographs of plants and flowers that he likes. Ron's photos have been featured in journal articles, [book covers](#), and in several books. Please see the [publications](#) page of this website for more information.

Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, is situated in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. This beautiful island is approximately 250 kilometers long and 56 kilometers wide at most and only 12 kms wide at its narrowest point. The island is like a giant rock garden, with many beautiful plants (and far too many goats!) growing in its stony soils. Many of these are endemic to the island. Where the orchids are found, they can be very numerous in both species and quantity. There are more than 60 species of orchids here, many of them very variable, several with regional subspecies. There are lots of natural hybrids also, making identification difficult. This talk features the orchids (as well as some of the other beautiful wildflowers) seen on a trip there in the middle of April, 2007. What a great way to start our new adventure in our new building!



**WHAT'S DOING IN OUR  
LITTLE CORNER OF THE  
ORCHID WORLD....**

Our March meeting, the farewell to our old building, was lots of fun. Ron Coleman did a skillful presentation on the native orchids of the United States, and our Board (Carol, Roberta, Eileen and Diana) and Barry and Mary King prepped a feast for us to enjoy. I gave out pretty spring flower pens to mark our new beginning at our new center. Our raffle was incredible with orchids and flowering plants from the hotels thanks to Tony Billitere, raffle angel. Clarice Dean, Gail Harris and Myra Glassman housed the plants along with many other kind folks. I got us flowering orchids, too, and Jackie Bravermann donated many of her orchids. On top of that, we had orchids donated by Orchids of Los Osos. We thank Gloria Hoffman, Claudia Drake, Nita Bragg, Cathy Loftfield and William Whaley for food for our April meeting. Thanks to Terry Wilsey for arranging travel for our speakers and carting them around. Thanks to Cathy Loftfield for providing a digital projector and to Eileen McKyton for getting us flowering plants from Carmelas for our April meeting. (My granddaughter Lauren from Atlanta will be at the April meeting. I am happy!) We are thrilled that Mike Lawless, the other half of the Dan Mumau duo, is no longer working on Sundays. HE IS BACK. We could not be more happy to have his sunny self with us.

**The Easter Show at the Cal** will be held the weekend of April 15, a week before Easter, put on by our friends at the Torrance Cymbidium Society. **Shelly North** has graciously agreed to design our orchid display and has chosen a spring garden theme. We are so lucky to have this professional artist and designer willing to do this. We would love to have your blooming beauties. Set-up will be on Thursday, April 14 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 15 noon  
**SET UP THURS APRIL 14 4PM-SHELLY NORTH**, our display genius,  
CAROL SIEGEL, OLE BORRESEN CATHY LOFTFIELD, EILEEN  
MCKYTON(& you?)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15 AMBASSADORS**  
**12NOON- 2:30 PM WILLIAM WHALEY**  
**2:30 PM-5 PM CATHY LOFTFIELD**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16**

**10-1 PM BRUCE AND WANDA LA FOLLETTE**

**1 – 5 PM JUDIE AND JOHN TUTHILL, BARRY AND MARY KING**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17 NOBODY VOLUNTEERED YET 10-12:30 PM**

**12:30-3 PM OLE BORRESEN, CATHY LOFTFIELD**



In May, our native orchid, *Epipactis gigantea*, one of our fourteen native Nevada orchids, will be in bloom in Nevada. **Paula Garrett**, our Nevada native orchid guru, has agreed to take us on a field trip to see this beautiful orchid when it blooms, probably the beginning of May, in Calico Basin, in Red Rock. We will try to alert you by email as soon as they are in bloom and the trip planned. It was tremendous fun last year, with hundreds of orchids, an easy walk, and lots of other wildflowers, too. Come join us.

*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



The Zen Of The Orchid Club  
by Carol Siegel

1. If you feed the members, they will come.
2. The closer to an orchid show, the faster the flower will fade
3. The longer you grow orchids, the less you know.
4. No matter how orchids are grown, the next speaker will say it is wrong.
5. The more raffle tickets you buy, the less you win.
6. Scale always grows on the side of the orchid you don't look at.
7. Cinco de Mayo celebrations always occur on a meeting day.
8. Bud blast is living proof orchids have a sense of humor.
9. You can kill mealy bugs, but you cannot get rid of them.
10. Greenhouses are never big enough.
11. The more orchids you buy, the more you need.
12. No matter how big your club grows, ten people will always do most of the work.
13. Filling pot with orchid gives more joy than smoking it.
14. Electricity always goes out on the hottest day of summer.
15. Small change in culture makes big change in flowers..
16. No matter where you sit at a meeting, the speaker will have his back to you.
17. An orchid expert is someone who has killed more than a thousand orchids.
18. The one doing the vacuuming is the president.
19. The greater the orchid passion, the flatter the wallet.
20. The student worries about the flowers. The master worries about the roots.
21. To flower an orchid is to have the human approach the divine.
22. No matter how crowded the growing space, there is always room for one more.
23. Shade cloth is always put up one day after the sunniest day of the year.
24. You can never be too thin, too rich, or have too many orchids.
25. If it looks too good, they just bought it.

THERE IS ANOTHER ARTICLE BELOW....

# **THE TEN WARNING SIGNS OF ORCHID ADDICTION**

**Carol Siegel**

I have read that growing orchids is like being addicted to heroin, only heroin's cheaper!! Tales of obsession abound from the man who stacked so many light carts in his office that he had to work out of his home to the lady whose broken toilet ran constantly until it turned black with mold so her orchids could have humidity. I thought, "How silly," until I realized that I now park in the street since my three-car garage is full of orchids. Could I have ORCHID ADDICTION? Could YOU? See if you have any of the ten warning signs.

## **1. You have stopped bathing.**

This is an early sign of orchid addiction. You stopped by Trader Joe's and bought one of those \$15 orchids in glorious bloom and liked it so much that now they know you by your first name at that store. They told you to put it in a light, moist room so you put it next to the bathtub. Before you knew it, you had so many orchids that they filled the bathtub. You could no longer take baths. You have now switched to showers and are eyeing the top of the toilet tank. Your mate is nervous.

## **2. You wear old shoes.**

Formerly a lover of beautiful shoes and new clothes, you now spend all your extra money on orchids. This sign is particularly serious in women.

## **3. You enter your house by way of the garage if your family is home.**

Sneaking orchids into the house is universally admitted to be a sure test that you have been bitten by the orchid bug. Previously honest, you now deny that the big red cattleya on the kitchen table is a new acquisition. "This old thing? Nah, I've had it for years..." doesn't fool those who love you.

## **4. Your orchids are very crowded together.**

Orchids of an addict are always very crowded together. That is because no matter how much space you have, you fill it up. Orchid lovers know that the answer to, "How big should my growing area be?" is always wrong --you buy orchids until your growing area is too small.

## **5. There is styrofoam on your lawn.**

Even if you are far from an orchid nursery, you can always order on the phone or the internet, and the plants come in BIG cardboard boxes full of styrofoam. On garbage day, orchid addicts

have lots of cartons in front of their house and styrofoam packing blown across the lawn. Cartons and styrofoam are to orchids what needle tracks are to heroin.

**6.You plan your vacations around orchids.**

You are in Mongolia sleeping in a felt tent, and you wake up in the middle of the night wondering if there are any nurseries in the area. You go to orchid shows, orchid nurseries, and orchid expeditions when you travel.

**7.You now speak Greek and Latin.**

Despite the fact that you can never find your keys and cannot remember your cell phone number, you can rattle off *Cyrtopodium punctatum* or *Angraecum sesquipedalae* every time. You want to know the genus and species of every plant and are now beginning to recognize plants by their Latin names. Seek help.

**8.You buy a lot of orchid stuff.**

No longer just content with the plants, you have orchid mugs, orchid pictures, orchid books, orchid shirts, and orchid dishes. You spend more money on your orchids than you do on your grandchildren—special water, potting mix, perlite, fertilizer, hoses, and lights. If someone offers you pot, you want to know if it is 4” or 6”. You never have any money.

**9.More than half of your “FAVORITES” on the internet are orchid sites.**

Nobody can call you because you are always on the web doing something orchid. AND when you are not on the web, you hang out with other orchid addicts to discuss web orchid sites. All your new friends are addicts, too.

**10.You want to become an orchid judge.**

Wanting to become an orchid judge is the surest sign that your hobby has become a disease. It takes longer to be an orchid judge than it does to become a doctor. After a year of clerking and three to five years as a student judge, they make you a probationary judge for another three to five years before you become a judge. AND THEN THEY DON'T PAY YOU ANYTHING. You just spend money going to shows to judge. They don't even have rehab for judges. They know it is too late to be cured.

If you have recognized any of the warning signs above in yourself, immediately join an orchid society. They probably can't help you, but they sell great orchids!

See you at the Easter Seals Building!

Love, Carol

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