

# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



**HAPPY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> TO  
OUR DEAR MEMBERS**

**SUNDAY JULY 10, 2011  
2 P.M.**

**NOTE THAT WE ARE MEETING  
THE SECOND SUNDAY BECAUSE  
OF THE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY**

## ***SPECIAL EVENTS:***

July 10, 2011  
Fred Clarke,  
"Growing Fabulous Cattleya"  
August 7, 2011  
Barbecue Mt. Charleston  
September 11, 2011  
Cathy Loftfeld  
"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  
January 8, 2012  
Jason Fischer "Singapore World  
Orchid Conference"  
February 5, 2012  
Ron Midgett "20-Year Odyssey in  
Cattleya Breeding"  
March 4, 2012 Ron Parsons "Orchids  
Of Philippines"  
April 1, 2012 Harold Koopowitz  
"All About Paphiopedilum"  
May 6, 2012 Diana Smith  
June 3, 2012 Rick Burnett "Seven  
Ways to Kill An Orchid"  
August 5, 2012  
Barbecue

## **POTLUCK FOR JULY MEETING**



**We will have a potluck for our July meeting. Terry Wilsey will bring paper goods and table decorations. Pennye Senneseth will provide drinks and cups. The rest of us are asked to bring a dish for 10-12 people with serving spoons and forks- something like a summer salad or a dessert. A summer salad can be a fruit salad, a vegetable salad, a main dish salad with meat, fish, seafood, or perhaps a rice, potato or pasta salad. A dessert can be anything yummy. Don't want to bring that? Bring whatever you want. We just have only one oven and stove so everybody can't bring hot things. Can't bring anything? Come anyway. We love you and want you to enjoy the meeting no matter what. We thought it would be a fun thing to do (and only Terry and Pennye signed up for July... We are good for other months...)**

# **fred Clarke talks about cattleya in July...**

Fred Clarke  
Sunset Valley Orchids

## **“Today’s Mini and Compact Cattleyas”**

At our July meeting, Fred Clarke (owner of Sunset Valley Orchids and the best speaker) will present a power point presentation on the darling and delightful mini and compact cattleyas. These plants are less fussy and easier to grow for many of us, and they take up less space than full-blown cattleyas. He will give us a detailed look at the species and the latest developments in the breeding and growing of these colorful flowers. We will learn about the best of the best in today’s breeding and the new directions these hybrids are taking. Fred will also cover the ‘best practices’ for growing these remarkable plants. **BEST OF ALL, FRED WILL BE BRINGING HIS EXCEPTIONAL PLANTS FOR SALE AND FOR THE RAFFLE. HIS PLANTS ARE WONDERFUL SO SAVE YOUR PENNIES (AND NICKELS...)**

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 33 years and has been hybridizing for 25 of those years. With over 25 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Aussie Dendrobium and Paphiopedilum hybrids.

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received eight FCC’s, eight AM’s and the coveted ‘Award of Distinction’ on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

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**BARBECUE AT ELDINE STEVENS' COOL HOME IN MT. CHARLESTON AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>...**



**We are happy to have our annual summer barbecue once more at the lovely home of gracious Eldine Stevens in August. We are also thrilled that the expert caterers (A Catered Affair 362-5251) Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless have agreed to do all the cooking. They do such a wonderful job! We are very lucky to have their continued support and talent. The club will provide soft drinks and grilled meats (beef, chicken, pork, ribs, sausage, salmon—the works!). *If you want alcohol, please bring it yourself.* We ask everybody to bring a dish for 10-12 people, side dish, dessert, fruit, etc with serving spoons. *Diana Smith will do a mini-talk on mounting orchids. This is always a welcome break from the heat and a lot of fun.***



## **EAST-SIDE GREENHOUSE TOUR WAS A BIG SUCCESS IN JUNE**

***Well, I was afraid nobody would come because of all the driving, but was I wrong! We had at least 50 or 60 people having just the best time visiting and learning, exploring and feasting. Tony Billitere provided dozens of free hotel plants for us to take home, and we were grateful for his team of plant caregivers who looked after the plants before the meeting. We first visited the pristine sun room of Cathy and Jim Loftfield with its plants presented like little jewels. Then it was on to the ingenious growing room of Fred and Roberta Schechter, featuring skylights and a unique watering table overflowing with plants. Then, finally we visited the fascinating and very European home of Ole Borresen with its greenhouses built years ago by Ole himself. Everybody spoiled us- Cathy with her plentiful hors d'oeuvres, Roberts with her dips, and Ole, well, Ole with his endless feast of dishes. It was great fun and we learned a lot. If you would let us see your greenhouse or growing area, modest or not, tell me and we will organize another tour for next year.***

***I asked the hosts to write a paragraph or two about their growing areas. Cathy and Ole were kind enough to write up their areas, and Fred Schechter promises to do it another month when he is less busy. We are grateful to you all. Below I include the write-up of Ole and Cathy's growing area. A picture of my growing area is below (a joke..)***



## **June 5th Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society Meeting-----Ole's Stop on the Tour**

I want to thank everyone who attended my luncheon and 'open house' which were part of our June Orchid Society meeting. I enjoyed sharing my home, food, gardens and greenhouse with all of you. My only regrets are that every society member could not attend and that I didn't have time to give everyone who did attend a personal tour.

I appreciated the compliments on my greenhouses since I consider them a corner stone of my yard and gardens. I built the first greenhouse in 1973 and the pool, patio and many plants and flowers followed. This early greenhouse was built in a little less than a week from an 8' by 12' corrugated plastic kit. I had never built anything like it before but then I had never raised orchids either. This greenhouse was like a classroom for me, and I learned how to use white paint on the roof and a small window-sized evaporative cooler to help reduce the intense summer heat. Winter warmth is provided by oil filled electric heaters. The cooler and heater are thermostat controlled. I added interior shelves on the east and west sides to hold my orchids.

My first orchids were Cattleya Trianae delivered in two big boxes from Stewarts Orchids in San Gabriel, CA. I continued my orchid-growing training as I potted these plants and introduced them to my greenhouse. I was very disappointed when I received no blooms the first year. But I was rewarded the second year with many blooms and 37 years later I still have orchids produced from this 'startup' effort.

In 1983 I realized I had outgrown my original greenhouse and replaced it with a 12' by 24' structure assembled from kits purchased from Minnesota. The basic material in these kits was twinwall polyethylene plastic panels. It took me less than a week to assemble this greenhouse on cinder blocks used to provide support and stability. I used the knowledge I gained earlier to add climate control features. With the additional space I am able to experiment with more types of orchids but Cattleya Trianae and Lady Slippers remain my primary interest in this greenhouse.

In 2006 I added a 6' by 12' 'lean on' greenhouse. This greenhouse was relatively easy to build and shares climate control with the larger structure. In this addition I primarily grow Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums.

I doubt if I do any more expansion since the orchids I now have can require up to 2 hours of love and attention a day for the watering, fertilizing and other maintenance activities. And I also need to have time to experiment with other plants, including innumerable succulents (mainly cacti), fruit trees, flowers and vegetables—always learning and testing my ability to grow things in our often hostile Nevada climate.

Thanks again for being such gracious guests.





**OLE AND HIS ORCHIDS 1973**



**OLE AND HIS ORCHIDS 2011 (HE ONLY GETS BETTER LOOKING...)**



## CATHY AND JIM LOFTFIELD'S STOP IN THE TOUR

Here is some information about my growing area. My sunroom is 144 square feet with large windows that face north and west. Therefore I have plenty of light, in fact my challenge is to manage the light that I have to be able to grow orchids in a good environment. The following is an explanation of what I mean about managing the light: In the spring and summer months I move the three tiered shelves away from the windows approximately 12 to 20 inches because the sun will burn the orchids. In about late June early July I have to put up sheer curtains on the windows because my room gets too hot. I have an evaporative cooler, five tower oscillating fans, (they take up less space) and a ceiling fan. I don't wash the windows in the spring and summer the dirt acts like a sheer curtain. Most of the orchids sit on humidity trays which adds humidity to the sunroom as does the evaporative cooler. I can keep the humidity in the sunroom about 40% - 60% year round.

In the fall/winter months I move the three tiered shelves closer to the windows and run the evaporative cooler a couple hours a day for humidity. All of the other fans also run all day and night year round. I wash the windows to improve the light in the sunroom. I do not provide any heat in the fall/winter so that the temperature in the sunroom can dip to approximately 55 – 59 degrees at night to try to get the orchids to spike. The picture of the sunroom was taken spring/summer 2010.



SEE YOU JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>. KEEP BLOOMING! LOVE CAROL





