

**THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY**  
**THE ORCHID COLUMN**  
CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

July 1, 2012

Alan Koch "Species Habitat  
And Hybrid Culture- An Orchid  
Culture Talk"

August 5, 2012 Barbecue

Cathy Loftfield "Potting Orchids"

September 9, 2012

Second Sunday

Greenhouse Tour

Al deRicco, Clarice Dean, Dan Mumau

October 6, 2012

Peter Lin

"Growing Specimen Orchids"

November 4, 2012

Carol Siegel "Liars and Cheats:  
The Story of Orchid Deception"

December 2, 2012

Holiday Party

January 6, 2012

Ron Parsons

"Miniature Orchids"

February 3, 2013

Alan Kochs

"Unusual Species for the Cattleya  
Grower"

March 3, 2013 Mike Glikbarg TBA

April 7, 2013 Karen Muir "Maxillaria"

May 5, 2013 Harry Phillips from Andy  
Orchids TBA

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2012

PIANO MUSIC 1pm

MEETING 2pm

RAINBOW LIBRARY

AGAIN! The old building won't be ready for occupancy (that's the old OLD building not the NEW old building) until some time in 2013 since they are still working in the park. We have enjoyed the Easter Seal Building, but it is not available for rental now that our lease is up. In addition, the room is way too light for our presentations, and we always wanted to find a darker, more suitable room. We will meet at the Meeting Room at the Rainbow Library, 3150 North Buffalo at the corner of Cheyenne starting with our July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. (Why do I have nightmares about members roaming around the city looking for the meeting....) When you enter the library, make a sharp right and the Meeting Room is there. I think you will be delighted. THE ROOM HAS NO WINDOWS AND IS PLENTY DARK ENOUGH! I looked for a room with a kitchen where we could make food, a capacity of over 100 people, availability on Sundays which was not already taken, lots of tables and chairs, a microphone, screen, plenty of overhead lights, security, tons of parking. It even has TV's and a piano. It is nice that we will be able to eat, too. (Even if you can't grow, you can always eat...) Rental costs are just about the same, too. It is only a short walk from the parking lot, which is a plus carrying plants. I hope you will be pleased. If the room suits us, maybe we won't move again! WE THANK STEVE NINEMIRE FOR ALL HIS GENEROUS HELP THIS YEAR WITH THE EASTER SEAL BUILDING. HE IS AN ANGEL.



**MUSIC AND FAVORS AT JULY 1 MEETING TO CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY! WE ARE HAVING A POTLUCK, TOO! BRING SOMETHING ...**

To celebrate our new location, I personally have hired Dennis O'Sullivan, a great piano player, to play from 1-2 as we set up and socialize this month. I thought it would make the day. I have also gotten all kinds of July 4<sup>th</sup> hats, necklaces, paper goods and favors to make it special. I think it will be fun. (I will have two of my granddaughters with me at the meeting, which will be special for me...) We are having a **POTLUCK**. Everyone is asked to bring a salad (fruit salad, Caesar salad, Greek salad, vegetable salad, egg salad, tuna salad, chicken salad, seafood salad, edamame salad, potato, rice, or broccoli salad, etc.) or/and a dessert. If you want to bring something else, feel free, but it is a new place, and I don't know how much oven space they have so ready-to-eat stuff would be good and cool. Our speaker is Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids, a great speaker with lots of knowledge and a good sense of humor. He will be doing a culture talk on how to grow plants based on how they or their parents grow in nature. He is bringing plants to sell (I always buy his plants and they grow well for me...) If you want to have him bring plants just for you, you can order plants from his website [www.goldcountryorchids.com](http://www.goldcountryorchids.com). He says, "If anyone wishes to preorder from the website I will bring it for no freight and a 20% discount. To get it they need to type in GCOD, case sensitive and then under shipping bring to society and type the society name under comments." Several members have done this already.



Thank the Lord we don't have so many folks to send get well wishes to this month. Last month, it would have been easier to just write the names of the few of us who were NOT sick. We are glad that surgery is over for our beloved Tony Billitere. We hope that he is now on the mend and that he will be all well soon. We are pleased that Myra Glassman's leg surgery is behind her (under her?) and, we hope she will soon be back in the gym. Nice to know that Roberta Schechter is feeling much better and that Jeri Lee's arm is, too. Ed Prudhomme looked great at the meeting. We hear Leslie Doyle is back to her "tomatoing" at last. We hope that Jean Gordon is feeling better. We certainly have missed her. Last, but certainly not least, Ole visited with Christina de la Cruz and said she looked just great. Hope to see her at the meeting.

Now look, guys, let's all send each other even more healing energy and lots of love. It seems to be working! **AND BE CAREFUL AND TAKE YOUR VITAMINS...**

**Congratulations to Eileen McKyton on her new job as a homeowner association manager.**

**Ole Borreson and Tony B have gotten lots of orchids and green plants for the raffle. Ole has so many that he has said you can stop by his house (call first 384-1129) and get first choice. They are inexpensive and lovely. He has so many he is afraid he will not be able to bring them all. We should always have such problems... Thank you for doing this for us. We love and appreciate you.**

Our June meeting was lots of fun. We are grateful to DIANA SMITH who did an excellent and interesting Power Point presentation on species you can easily grow here. She is such a wonderful speaker and such an asset to the club. She always comes early with me on Sunday and helps pull the cart... I am grateful for her friendship and her devotion to the club. She and I packed up all our stuff for our move (I now have the library in boxes in my garage cause I didn't have enough stuff in the garage... I will bring one box to each meeting so we will have a "mini-library" at every meeting. Have books out? Bring them back so others can enjoy them... Thanks to Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless for bringing the books to my house. We welcomed back Robert Verchick, a former member, and his friend Vito. Glad to see you again. We were very glad to have Gloria Gunn who has just retired come to our meeting. She brought some plants and we discussed repotting them. Thank you to our food team-Wanda and Bruce LaFollette, Shelly North, Carolyn Jones and Phil Potashnerm Karla Thomas and Judie and John Tuthill- for the delicious food at the meeting. Everybody loved it! Remember next month is our potluck... The orchids from Hilo Orchid Farm sold out. There was one type of intergeneric orchid that did not have a tag. I think it is **Banfieldara Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'**. The image is below. Thanks to the Tuthills for donating potting material to the club.





New to the club... If you join at the July meeting, dues are \$45 for membership through the end of 2013, \$60 for a couple. We hope you join us!

**Banfieldara Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'**

**If you bought one of these, you will see that the flowers look like this. (For those of us for whom tags are vital...)**

### **FALLING IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN.... Carol Siegel**

When we first grow orchids, we enter the meeting like a convert entering a church. We are full of wonder and devotion, and excitement overtakes us as we empty our wallets. Sometimes, with time, some of the thrill fades as wonder degenerates into work. All the magazines tell us how to put some new zest into our marriages, but how do we recapture the zest of orchid growing?

#### **1. TRY A WHOLE NEW SPECIES**

If you buy a lot of your plants at Trader Joe's or get them in the raffle, sometimes you wind up with a lot of phalaenopsis or intergeneric hybrids. Try something new and exotic like *dendrobium*. With 1500 species or more, there are a lot of odd and unusual plants that you can buy. Websites like [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com) or [www.parksideorchids.com](http://www.parksideorchids.com) often will open up a whole new world for. Have you ever tried *catasetum*? Their pseudobulbs look like fat cigars, and they lose their leaves and look like they are dead all winter. Then, in spring, they grow rapidly and put out long sprays of fabulous flowers. You don't even water them in the winter! *Catasetum tenebrosum* is one of these beauties with spring-loaded pollinia, a fabulous fragrance and exotic flowers. Their separate male and female flowers look totally different, and their seed pods are as big as baseballs. So special! Male flowers of this species are 2 inches wide with a showy maroon to brownish-red lip. Female flowers are yellow-green, but all have a lovely citrus smell.

You can buy them from Fred Clarke at [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com). He also sells lots of weird and wonderful *bulbophyllum* with grotesque shapes and hanging tails. Try something new!

#### **2. TRY A FRAGRANCE COLLECTION**

You can devote yourself to growing flowers that have a fragrance. Orchid shows now have awards for fragrance, and you, too, will find them rewarding. *Zygopetalum* Arthur Elle 'Tanzanite' AM/AOS, for example, has a hauntingly beautiful smell of hyacinths and violets, evoking memories of spring flowers in

bloom. Famous for its gorgeous green, blue, purple, brown and white flowers, the inflorescence stands over a foot high and can have as many as twelve fragrant flowers. Blooming from fall to spring, this (and almost any) zygopetalum is worth a try for its outstanding flowers, lush green leaves, and most often, its luscious aroma. ***Brassovola Nodosa*** smells strongly of freesia and lily of the valley and is known as the “Lady of the Night” because its exquisite perfume lasts from early evening until after midnight. With the lovely habit of blooming almost any time, this orchid is easy to grow and a delight to own.

***Brassolaeliocattleya Hausermann’s Holiday ‘Ishpeming’*** is the orchid that teenage girls pray to get when they go to the prom. Its sepals and petals are a silvery rosy-lavender with an intensely-ruffled dark lavender lip with bright yellow veining in the throat. The heady fragrance, sweet and sultry, the “classic” orchid smell of memory, fills the greenhouse or home with the smell of honey and vanilla. You must have this or one of the many hybrids in this trigeneric genus created for the first time in 1897 by crossing *Brassavola* x *Laelia* x *Cattleya*. You might like ***Cattleya Bob Betts ‘White Lightning’***- Elvin McDonald has called this cross of Bow Bells x *Cattleya mossiae*, “the quintessential big white ruffly cattleya orchid- the sight of which can cause the knees to buckle, the smell of which can bring cries of delight if not outright swooning.” Blooming in the fall and winter, a mature plant can produce two or more spikes at once, each bearing up to three fragrant beauties. Many fragrant cattleyas are available at [www.orchidsbyhausermann.com](http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com). Think about adding a ***Neofinetia falcata*** to your collection. Charming Jason Fischer, of Orchid Limited nursery [www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com) introduced me to this equally charming orchid. Smelling of jasmine and vanilla, this diminutive beauty can fill an entire room with an enticing aroma. Pollinated by a nocturnal moth, its fragrance is strongest before dawn and after dusk. A long nectary graces the tiny inflorescences which last a month or more. Best of all, the plant is easy to grow, even under fluorescent lights. Every part of the plant is beautiful, earning this orchid a place in every collection.

### 3.COLLECT ALL THE COLORS OF A SPECIES

***Cattleya intermedia***, the beloved orchid of Brazil, is valued for all its color forms, a rainbow all in one species. You could collect just all its color forms. . The typical flower is pale lavender-pink with a lip that has a rich fuchsia midlobe.. Some of the color forms seen in collections are *orlata* (round full lip opening with side lobes edged same color as midlobe), *amethystina* (nearly white flowers with soft pink midlobe), *parthenia* (pure white flowers), *vinicolor* (wine-red midlobe), *coerulea* (soft bluish flowers with slate-blue midlobe), and the peloric form *aquinii* (also known as *flamea*). There are also combinations of some of these color forms. The *aquinii* form is the foundation for much of the breeding of splash-petaled *Cattleya* hybrids. You could just be a specialist in this one species!

### 4.HAVE A ONE COLOR COLLECTION

Want to put some zest in your collection? Try having just a one-color collection such as a blue collection or a green collection. Then, whether you buy phalaenopsis or cattleya, you will always be on the look-out for YOUR color. It helps limit the number of orchids you buy or house because you don’t DO red or pink, for example.

### 5.TRY A DIFFERENT SIZE COLLECTION LIKE ALL MINIATURE ORCHIDS

After a while, we all run out of room and a mini-orchid collection might be just the thing for you.

[www.orchidsbyhausermann.com](http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com) has a whole section devoted to buying just miniature orchids.

[www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com) is just the place to buy those adorable little miniature species that are often quite hardy and beautiful. There are outstanding *Pleurothallids* that are like little jewels whose beauty can best be seen with a magnifying glass. Some people mount the little orchids on a big piece of bark or driftwood or grow them in an aquarium or terrarium or a tree stump. That will give you a different hobby!

### 6. HYBRIDIZE

You can become a “breeder.” Breeders never go anywhere without a toothpick and a collection of baby food jars. If you adore having thousands of the same little tiny plants and are more patient than most mortals, crossing orchids will make you feel like the Creator. You can make a difference in the orchid world, and your little offspring will never talk back to you or need to go to college.

### 7.START RAISING BABIES IN A COMPOT

You may not want to cross orchids, but you can buy a compot that someone else has crossed. It takes from 6-12 months for a seed capsule to mature, and they can have thousands, even millions of seed.

Seeds are sown in a "mother flask" in a sterile environment . Seedlings grow very rapidly and usually remain in these flasks for approximately one year, or until they are large enough to be planted out to a community pot. The community pot (the compot) may hold from fifteen to 30 seedlings. Plants may spend up to one year in the community pot, before being transplanted to individual pots. After several more transplants and lots of tender loving care in years following, the orchids reach the "flowering size" stage, finally! From seed to flowering plant takes from three to seven years, depending on which orchid species seeds were sown. You can buy the compot and grow the seeds to the flowering stage. It is very exciting for some people to do this./

## **8.JOIN A SPECIALTY GROUP**

There are lots of group that specialize in just one type of orchid. You can get on their website, join their chatroom or go to their meetings. For example, the Paph Guild meets once a year in California with sales and speakers. The Pleurothallis Alliance also holds interesting chats and meetings. You can meeting all kinds of new people. I belong to the Native Orchid Conference, and every day I read about native orchids, a big interest of mine [nativeorchidconference@yahoo.com](mailto:nativeorchidconference@yahoo.com)

## **9.START AN ORCHID LIBRARY**

Even if you cannot grow orchids, collecting orchid books is an interesting thing to do. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com) are two sites where you can get lots of orchid books. ORCHID DIGEST and ORCHIDS magazine also have book reviews, and you can buy the books they recommend. I love to have orchid books! In the same vein, you can buy lots of different kinds of orchid stuff- stationery, pictures, T-shirts, coffee mugs- I even have orchid pants.

## **10.ATTEND CONFERENCE AND SHOWS**

One of the great joys of orchid growing is going to orchid meetings and show. For example, from July 13-15, the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate is holding the Orchid Fair [www.sboe.com](http://www.sboe.com). [www.orchidfair.com](http://www.orchidfair.com)

You can enjoy gorgeous orchids to buy and wonderful lectures to learn from.

Orchid Digest is also holding Orchid Digest Day on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 9pm. There will be great speakers, lots of orchids to buy, and good food. I always go, and it is fun.

## **11.DO A TALK OR AN ARTICLE**

I write for ORCHID DIGEST and speak around the country on orchid subjects. You can, too! I just made up my talk after doing lots of research, and I wrote to groups who might want to hear me. I made contact with orchid magazines, did research, and sent them my articles. There is nothing special about me except that I did it. You can be a speaker or writer, too.

## **13.CHANGE YOUR POTTING MEDIA**

Sometimes, it is as simple as changing your potting media to refresh your interest in orchids. Listen at meetings and try something new if what you are doing is not producing the results you want. Dan Mumau spoke on mixing lots of things together to make a kind of granola mix, with bark, perlite, charcoal, Alliflor, cork, to give the orchids something interesting to grow on. I tried it, and I had good results. I just switched to a foliar feed fertilizer (you spray it on the leaves) from Norman's Orchids, and I have all kind of new growth. It makes me happy with my hobby.

## **14.GET A NEW GROWING AREA**

There is nothing as exciting as getting a new greenhouse (Come to our tour in September and find out how..) [www.charleysgreenhouse.com](http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com) or buying a different kind of lights or benches. When you fidget with your growing area, you can really fall in love all over again!

Hope to see you July 1. Love Carol 254-4168