

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR

SUNDAY SEPTEMBR 11, 2011

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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

AUGUST BARBECUE WAS SENSATIONAL The barbecue at Mt. Charleston in August was spectacular. Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless, professional chefs who run A Catered Affair(362-5251 ACateredAffair@aol.com) prepared a fabulous selection of delicious meats which were miraculously hot and tasty all afternoon long. These men are such great friends of our club, and we appreciate this huge effort that they have made. Thanks to all the members brought wonderful side dishes. A million thanks to Eldine Stevens for the use of her lovely cabin. We thank Tony Billitere and his raffle committee for the lovely plants that we distributed for free to members. Diana Smith, treasurer for more than a decade (and a great grower), did a wonderful talk on mounting orchids. For those of you who missed the hands-on presentation, Diana was kind enough to write up some thoughts on the subject (MORE **NEWSLETTER** after her article...)

MOUNTING ORCHIDS BY DIANA SMITH

The first things to think about are what kind of watering conditions the plant needs, and what you can conveniently provide. Mounting is generally not for terrestrial orchids such as paphs and phals. It is best for thick-rooted plants that need to dry out between waterings such as cattleyas and dendrobiums.

Next, consider the shape, size and substrate of the base you wish to use. Logs and branches, tree fern, cholla skeletons, and cork slabs are the most common bases and are used with or without a sphagnum pad which retains water.

Plastic or vinyl-coated wire can be used to make virtually any shape base, and can be filled with sphagnum, bark, diatomite, or cork pieces depending on how much water you want retained in contact with the plant's roots.

Then, consider placement of the cutting. Some plants clump, others climb, and still others droop. Place the cutting where future growth will have space to attach. New growth can be gently trained to fill the available surface, but it is best to not take the chance of breaking it off and place the plant properly to begin with.

Now start by tying some plastic fishing line to a spot on the base at the bottom of the cuttings. Add a pad of wet sphagnum is desired, and place the cuttings/plant so the roots are in contact with the moss or base. Wrap the line around the branch or slab in a spiral, catching the bottoms of the cuttings as you continue up the base. You may need to "weave" the line through leaves and bulbs as you go. You want the rhizome and pseudobulbs to be held firmly against the base without tying up the leaves, which could catch water and rot. Tighten the line so it is firm but not cutting any plant tissues. Continue spiraling until the plant is held to the base. You can always add more fishing line, so keep the initial spiral spaced out. To finish, tie down any plant parts that are unstable, add a label, and TA-DAA: you are done!

Smaller plants can be glued to a bare base using a product called Tilly-Tacker, which is basically a silicon sealant. I'm not sure if the formula is exactly the same as standard sealant, but it would be an interesting experiment to use household sealant with various orchids.



We made \$350 during our ORCHID ADOPTION with Gaia Orchids on Main Street and Charleston. The owner, Peter Frigeri, a charming man, had an event at the Venetian where he provided 550 orchids. Afterwards, the orchids needed good homes, and who else could provide that better than we could! I arranged for our club to buy the orchids at \$5 each, and we were all happy campers. The orchids were all in bloom and just lovely, and we were thrilled to fill our summer-weary growing areas with color. Best of all, Peter sent us a big check. This week he had another 150 white phals for \$5 and members adopted them. We should get another check! The orchids were in 3" pots and will need to be repotted as soon as they go out of bloom, probably into 4" pots. Phals love sphagnum moss, but remember to wear rubber gloves when repotting to avoid your getting a rare fungus infection. I will try to have sphagnum to buy at the meeting since potting is a must.

CATHY LOFTFIELD PRESENTS "A PASSION FOR ORCHIDS" AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Many thanks to the kind people who are bringing food to our September 11 meeting-John and Judie Tuthill, Cathy and Bruce Weber, Al de Ricco, Mary and Barry King, John and Bettye Williams. We always have the best food, and it is such a fun part of our meeting. We also like to buy orchids, and I have ordered three dozen mixed variety blooming orchids from Hilo Orchid Farm which we will sell. For a change of pace, instead of a raffle this month, we will be selling the hotel plants for 50 cents (small), \$5 a dozen. The larger house plants will be a dollar, \$10 a dozen. We thought it would be different, and it will be first come, first selection.

Just a word to thank <u>Steve Ninemire</u> who, out of the kindness of his heart, stays on Sunday to help make sure the building is left in good condition. He works all week there, and he does this just to be nice. He also comes before noon to let Diana and me in to the building, and we are very grateful for his continued friendship and help. If not for Steve, we would not have a place to meet. He is the BEST!

WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE CATHY LOFTFIELD DO A POWER POINT PRESENTATION ON "A PASSION FOR ORCHIDS." SHE HAS KINDLY WRITTEN UP A LITTLE ABOUT HER TALK:

A PASSION FOR ORCHIDS

CATHY LOFTFIELD

The passion to photograph orchids started out quite innocently. just wanted to receive a blue ribbon in the category 'still life'at the Nevada Camera Club. The club has an award called the Kaleidoscope of Blues Award where a plaque is awarded to a member who receives a blue ribbon in a minimum of ten of the thirteen The competition categories include the following: categories. abstract, animals/pets, nature/wildlife, people, photo journalism, commercial, creative, documentary, portraiture, still life, unclassified and club challenge. The purpose for the award is to stimulate members to expand their areas of photographic expertise by enticing them to enter all categories of competition with the reward of a plaque to acknowledge this achievement. Subsequently, I did receive the Kaleidoscope of Blues Award in 2009. It was certainly an accomplishment.

However, here is how the passion for orchids began:
When I made up my mind to obtain a blue ribbon in 'still life', I
decided to photograph flower(s). Therefore, one day while shopping
at Trader Joes I noticed a lovely orchid and purchased it. I
successfully photographed the orchid because at the next competition
of the camera club, I won a blue ribbon for the orchid image. I
named the image'Dendrobium' because that is what the tag
indicated.Subsequent trips to Trader Joes, I would purchase another,
then another, orchid to photograph. I think it was when I had
purchased the tenth orchid that I realized I had a passion for
photographing orchids.

The passion to photograph orchid spawned another passion purchasing and blooming orchids. I still have my very first orchid the 'Dendrobium'that continues to bloom every year. When my sister-in-law Becky Biondi found out that I loved to photograph and bloom orchids, she encouraged me to join the GLVOS. I joined GLVOS October 2005 and the club has rewarded me with numerous orchids to photograph and bloom. However, the most rewarding aspect of joining the club was the wonderful people I met. Other benefits I soon learned about were the great speakers, a lovely library of orchid books, and the terrific food. I trust that everyone will enjoy "A passion for orchids" presentation on September 11th.

DOINGS AT THE CLUB....

Glad to hear that Bill Doyle, charming husband of Leslie Doyle, is recovering nicely from his recent illness...We love you, Bill.

Glad to hear that Eileen McKyton has had a complete recovery from her recent surgery...

Get well to Cathy Loftfield after her recent surgery.

Happy to hear that Christina de la Cruz is all recovered from her recent eye surgery...

Hope Jean Gordon enjoyed her summer at her beach house... We missed you!

Hope the Wrays enjoyed their time in England...

Heard Wanda and Bruce LaFollette had a great time at the Shakespeare Festival, one of their great passions.

Missed seeing the three beautiful daughters of Cherie Lin at meetings... Hope everyone is doing well...

Good luck on going back to school to teach the gifted to Diana Smith (who is good at everything she does...)

Hope Dorothy Billitere is feeling better...

Congratulations to my granddaughter Raquel on her Bat Mitzvah in Phoenix...

MORE BELOW

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.

Stay well. Keep blooming. See you on September 11th. Love Carol