

THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

THE ORCHID COLUMN

DECEMBER 8, 2013 12:30 PM ***IT'S A PARTY AT MY HOUSE!***



SPECIAL EVENTS:

December 8, 2013 Holiday Party 12:30
January 5, 2014 Ron Parsons
"Orchids of China" White Elephant Sale
February 2, 2014 Fred Clarke
"Aussie Dendrobium"
March 2, 2014 Diana Smith "Coelogyne"
March 29 10-4 "A Passion for Orchids"
West Charleston Library
April 6, 2013 Ron Kaufman
"Orchids at the Beach"
May 4, 2014 Barbecue Shelly North 12:30
June 1, 2013 Peter Lin
"Orchids for Every Day of the Year"
July 13, 2014 Alan Koch "Orchids 101"
August 3, 2014 Sean Abbot "Growing
Phalaenopsis"
September 7, 2014 Harold Koopowitz
"A Fantastic Voyage Through Paphs"
Oct 5, 2014 Diana Smith "Pests and
Diseases"
November 2, 2014 Carol Siegel
"The Tools of the Orchid Grower"

WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT OUR NOV MEETING

A packed crowd came to our meeting last month at the Rainbow Library. I enjoyed doing a presentation on 19th century orchidmania, when the world went wild for orchids. Rich people would pay as much as \$100,000 for one exotic orchid, and fearless collectors would brave tigers, cannibals, snakes, disease and unimaginable danger to bring them back. We sold beautiful orchids from Carmela Orchids provided by Eileen Mckyton. We are grateful for the incredible food from Ole Borresen and Cathy Loftfield (who stepped in at the last minute...), Marlene Benedict, Mieke Magaki and Ingegerd Rossan. We welcomed guests Barbara Riordan, Marian Honeycutt, and Missie Price and were glad to see Mark Romansky again (who knows so much!) Thanks to Steve Hochman who graciously picked up our insurance for this quarter. We hope that Tricia Edwards-Schade's husband has a quick recovery. Here's hoping Stella Charvet is on the mend. Thanks to Ole, Tony, and Joel for bringing us gorgeous hotel plants. Thanks to Jeri Lee for vacuuming. Thanks to Diana Smith who recorded my talk and is always my orchid partner. Thanks to Cathy who got us advertising in the RJ and made an orchid banner for our show and party.

Myra Lee Glassman (Doc) presided over our elections and the current Board was delighted to be re-elected. The show of confidence means so much to us. We work hard for the club and are delighted that you feel things have gone well. Thank you. The officers for 2014 are Carol Siegel (President), Cathy Loftfield (Vice-President), Eileen McKyton (Secretary) and Diana Smith (Treasurer).

COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY 12:30 Dec 8th at my house (1 ½ hrs. earlier than usual time)

We are excited about our Holiday Party to be held at my home on Sunday, December 8th at 12:30 pm. That is the SECOND Sunday of December because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Bring some canned goods or boxes of food for us to donate to the needy at the holidays. My house is 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive in Canyon Gate Country Club (which is opposite the Lakes) on Sahara between Durango and Ft. Apache. If you go west on Sahara, it is the first right after Durango (Canyon Gate Drive). There is a light. Make a right into the guard gate & say you are with the club. Make the first right on Medalist and continue around for about a minute. The street, inexplicably, becomes Medalist, Iron Ridge and Robinson Ridge in a minute. The house has a stained glass shell door. Everybody will bring a dish- side dish, dessert, vegetable, main dish for 10-12 with serving spoons, heated and cut up if necessary.

The following people have graciously signed up for meats:

Two Prime rib	Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless, Carol Siegel
Ham	Betty and John Williams
Pork roast	Mike and Gloria Gunn
Fish dish	Wanda and Bruce LaFollette
Turkey	Nita Bragg
Fried Turkey	Joel Davidson
Shrimp	Kathy Lindsay
Turkey	Cathy and Bruce Weber

I will provide paper goods, a margarita machine, champagne, drinks and wine, various food, and entertainment. Michael Shane will be on keyboard and sing. We hope Carol Joyce will sing, too. We will have TWO ladies putting tinsel in hair, a photo booth, a nail artist painting orchids on nails (guys, too!) , and lot of toys. I am excited! As is tradition the club will have a raffle where everyone will get a blooming orchids for \$6. Remember if you have too many margaritas, we will put you in a cab and we will not let you drive. We love you! It is always the most fun, a chance for us to have fun together and celebrate another successful year. Every year people call me and ask if they can bring their mate, partner, relative or friend. SURE!! You don't have to ask! We just ask that you bring an extra dish, side dish, main dish or dessert, so that we will have enough food for the extra people who come. We sell raffle tickets to the guests as well for \$6, but our club members go into a special bucket so that they can choose first. Seems only fair... People also ask if they can have an holiday orchid reserved for them if they leave early from the party or don't come. Holiday orchids are only available when we call the raffle tickets, and you must be at the party to get one. It avoids conflict. I have made sure this year that you CAN park on both sides of the street, and YES, you can. See you on Dec 8th at 12:30.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING SOME CANS OR BOXES OF FOOD

MY GROWING AREA UNDER LIGHTS

When people come to orchid holiday party, they usually stop in my garage where I grow my orchids. I live in a gated community that, very meanly, does not allow greenhouses. I am usually having fun with everybody so I don't have time to talk about the set-up. For someone wanting to grow under lights, you might look at how I have solved some problems of growing that way.

1. Water- I have a sink. Whenever possible, which is most of the time, I take each plant to the sink and water it for at least 15 seconds. When I am very busy, I use my hose which has adjustable spray. Both are connected to my de-ionized water tank which is changed every month by Marvel Water. I water once a week. If it is very hot, I will hose everything on another day. I do not do well with mounted plants.

2. Humidity- I have a hydrofogger from www.hydrofogger.com.

It is connected to my deionized unit as well. It is on a humidistat, and I try to keep the humidity at 60-70%. It works well. I change the water and clean it weekly.

3. Air movement- I have three big fans that run all the time. I used to have more little fans, but these three Vornado fans move a lot of air, and they have lasted two years so far.

4. Temperature- I have an air conditioner on the wall on a timer. I usually have to use it from June to October. It is expensive but worth it to me. (My husband says he wants to come back as one of my orchids in his next life... Poor thing). I keep the temperature at 80-82 degrees in the summer which is cool enough. I have hung 6mm plastic to keep the a/c & humidity in. I never have to heat because the lights are warm. In the winter, the temperature drops at night to 58-60 degrees in November which initiates phal and paph blooms. I pull the plastic up in October to help get a cool evening for bloom initiation and put it down when it gets cold or hot. I have min/max temp thermometers to make sure I get it 10 degrees cooler at night

5. Light- I bought light carts from Hydrofarm (no longer available but other brands are) 11 years ago. I have nine carts. I put 40 watt Agrosun Gold

(4 bulbs) in a 48" fluorescent fixture on the bottom for phals and some paphs (low light plants).

I have Teklite fixtures on the top with 4-8 T5 bulbs for high light plants. The 8-bulb units are for cattleyas. I change my bulbs once a year in January. I buy my bulbs from

www.4hydroponics.com. Jay Lawrence gives me a discount. My bulbs are on a timer which varies with the season- 11 hours now up to 16 to 18 hours in the summer to mimic nature.

6. I love using MegaThrive which I get from Norman's Orchids. It is \$25, but it lasts a long time. I spray it on my orchids after watering. I have had MUCH more success since I have started using it.

7. I don't have much trouble with bugs. I try to be very clean, throwing out dead leaves and generally keeping things neat. I water by hand so I examine my plants all the time, nipping things in the bud (funny...). I used a solution of a bottle of rubbing alcohol with an inch or two of horticultural oil on top (I shake the bottle before spraying.) I throw a cinnamon stick in the bottle since it is a natural fungicide. I first wash bugs or scale off with a jet of water. Then I wipe with a paper towel. Then I spray with the alcohol/oil/cinnamon solution. It is non-toxic and really works.

THE ORCHID GROWER'S CHRISTMAS (WITH APOLOGIES TO CLEMENT C. MOORE)

Twas the night before Christmas, and in the greenhouse
Not a creature was stirring (neither slug, scale, nor mouse),
The seedlings were tucked in their compots with care,
In hope that some flower spikes soon would be there;
And I had just put on my coat, boots and cap
To check out the greenhouse before taking a nap,
When up on the roof I heard such a clatter
I looked through the pop-up to see what was the matter.
Then what should appear to my wondering eyes
But Santa Claus, dressed like Magnum P.I.
In surfer shorts, sandals and print shirt so bold-
I couldn't help asking, "Come in. Aren't you cold?"
He slid down the heater pipe, just missing the flue,
Sat down on the bench and said, "Don't mind if I do!
It's ben a long flight, and I'm just a bit tired."
"But where are your reindeer?" "Oh, they've all been fired.
They went out on strike with the elves and the rest.
So this year, I just sent all my stuff UPS-
Except for the orchids-wouldn't want them to freeze
Nice phals you've got here." (He paused for a sneeze
And to look at a brasso way up on the shelf.)
" I think they're terrific but can't grow them myself.
It seems that my greenhouse is simply too cold."
I gasped, "You grow ORCHIDS up at the North Pole?"
"Well, of course! Have for years!" replied old St. Nick,
"Though getting those big cats to bloom's quite a trick,
And that dim northern sun tends to shorten most spikes.
Now, I've got something here in my sack that you'd like!"
He pulled out a Vanda, a big husky fellow,
And said, "It's my guess that this should be a yellow."
Then he jumped through the pop-up and into his sled.
"But who knows? Coming from Santa, it just might be red!"
And I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
"Blooming orchids to all, and to all a good night!"

Elaine Cantwell

More below...



MORE BELOW...

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE IN JANUARY...

It's time once more for our annual white elephant sale, JANUARY 5th, an event that earned OVER \$1000 last year. COME EARLY SO YOU CAN SET UP AND BROWSE AND BUY. ONE O'CLOCK WOULD BE GOOD! We are a very high-class club, and our junk is of the very best quality. Everyone brings in some unwanted treasure- wine, a holiday gift, a lamp, a bike, books, CD's, VHS's, DVD's, dishes, pictures, nick nacks, sporting equipment, food...Don't have anything elephantine? Bring an orchid or orchid stuff or a division from your collection or Home Depot. I bought orchids that I am going to donate. You could, too. Start looking around. I will write to our friends at orchid nurseries and try to get them to donate orchids to us for our sale. Last year, I got over 80 for our cause.

Ron Parsons will be doing a power point presentation in January on "The Orchids of China." Thanks to Terry Wilsey for doing his travel arrangements, and Steve Hochman for picking him up.



See you December 8th
12:30 pm. Enjoy your Thanksgiving. Love Carol
254-4168 cell 525-3714