



## THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR

**SUNDAY, May 5, 2013**  
**Piano music at 1 Rainbow**

### SPECIAL EVENTS

May 5, 2013 Harry Phillips Andy's  
Orchids "The Perception and  
Reality of Growing Orchids"  
June 2, 2013 Jason Fischer  
"Australian Orchid Conference"  
July 7, 2013 Alan Koch "Orchids to  
Grow with Your Cattleyas"  
August 4, 2013 Barbecue  
September 8, 2013  
Greenhouse Tour Mary&Barry King  
Cathy Loftfield Aaron Schave  
October 6, 2013  
Cathy Loftfield "Orchids of  
Guatemala"  
November 3, 2013 Carol Siegel  
"Orchidmaniacs: The Historic  
Legends Of the Orchid World"  
December 1, 2013 Holiday Party  
January 5, 2014 Ron Parsons  
"Orchids of China"  
February 2, 2014 Fred Clarke  
"Aussie Dendrobium"  
March 2, 2014 Diana Smith "Coelogyne"  
May 4, 2014 Dr. Harold Koopowitz  
"A Fantastic Voyage Through Paphs"

### ***EPIPACTIS GIGANTEA* IN BLOOM IN CALICO BASIN**

On Sunday, April 21, a hardy band of orchid club adventurers accompanied naturalist Paula Garrett on a nature walk in Calico Basin to see our native orchid *Epipactis gigantea*. What a glorious day we had! Under sunny skies, over 25 of our orchid-loving members explored the native vegetation and wildflowers including amsonia, astragalus, hedgehog cactus, native ash, desert marigold, blue-eyed grass, yucca, Indian paintbrush and penstemon- and many more. (And they say this is a desert!) As we neared the cool, shady, wet sandstone cliffs, we thrilled to thousands of our native orchid in bloom. **We even saw a syrphid fly carrying orchid pollinia (captured by Claudia Drake above in an amazing photo) and flying to deposit it on another orchid.** That was truly a first!! Sometimes known as the "Stream Orchid" because of its moist habitat, this native loves to grow in wet places from sea level to 7500 feet, where it is found in hot springs, road cuts and wet cliff faces. It occurs all over Las Vegas where there is a little water- First Creek, LaMadre Spring, Pine Creek, Icebox Canyon, Blue Diamond, etc. It even grew in a puddle under a leaky water fountain at UNLV. The plant blooms to about 3 feet high with 12-20 flowers per inflorescence. The flowers are about 1 1/2 to 2 inches across. Part of the lip is elongated and quivers in the breeze, earning it its other name, the "Chatterbox Orchid." We thank Paula for her expert instruction and her generosity in leading us on her day off. Among the participants were Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless, Diana Smith, Myra Glassman, June Cravenn, Sherry Byrns, Gary Thompson, Claudia Drake, Carol Siegel, Doris Fairchild, Don Gault, Kathy and Bruce Weber, Paula Garrett's folks and son Evan, Ingegerd Rossan, Pat Holland, Bob Furtek and others.







## APRIL NEWS FROM GLVOS...



April was a great month for our club. We had a great display at the Easter Show at the Cal, and our friends at the Torrance Cymbidium Society said it was the best one yet. We thank Shelly North for acting as our creative genius and designing the display and Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless, our master chefs, for providing props for our Asian theme display. Many thanks to Ole Borresen, Tony Billitere, Diana Smith, Claudia Drake, Mary and Barry King, Cathy Loftfield and me for providing plants and helping with the display. I personally thank Tony who dropped off all my plants to me after the show, sweet guy. Thanks to Cathy who made a beautiful poster advertising our club. We thank Tony, Wanda and Bruce LaFollette, Steve Hochman, Myra Glassman for serving as our ambassadors. We did a great job!

Our April meeting was a lot of fun. The library is a wonderful venue, and smart people keep wandering in and joining. We welcomed Phyllis Militello as a member and welcomed guests Cathy Carlson, Diane Morton, Iris Chung, Monica Fleming, Katy Wong, Shelly Moran and Christina Roush. It was lovely to meet Nita Bragg's daughter. By the way, Happy Birthday, Nita!

We thrilled to the piano music of Dennis Sullivan on our baby grand, and we enjoyed the marvelous food provided by Terry Wilsey, Bob Furtek, Rosalie de Guzman, Kathy Weber and Gloria Gunn (and mates, of course). Diana Smith brought in lovely *Masdevallia*, *Zygopetalum* and *Catasetum* in bud for us to buy. Thank you, Diana. Karen Muir did a wonderful talk on *Maxillaria*. We learned so much about this widespread and diverse orchid genera of tropical America. They contain spectacular large-flowered species as well as charming miniatures. The genus contains over 650 species. Most of us are familiar with *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, the Coconut Orchid which blooms for Mother's Day. If you don't have one, try one. They are easy to grow and rewarding.

Many thanks in advance to our May food crew Stella Charvet, Shelly North, Dan Gault and Doris Fairchild, Marilyn Short, Esther Gesser and Carol Siegel.

Best of luck to Stella Charvet for a quick recovery after her back surgery. Glad to see Gloria Gunn looking so well after her knee surgery. Thank you to Eileen McKyton for providing a free air purifier as a prize. So nice.

We are excited to welcome Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids ([www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)) who will be doing a talk on THE PERCEPTION AND REALITY OF GROWING ORCHIDS

In Harry's words:

The purpose of my talk is to share what I have learned during the 35 or so years I have been associated with and growing orchids, the do's and don't of growing orchids, because what it seems like is not always the case with orchids. Have everyone bring there questions, and we should have a fun time. This will be an open forum discussion.

Harry Phillips was born in San Diego, California on July 9, 1953. His Father taught him to appreciate plants at an early age. In January of 1963 Harry's brother Andy (of Andy's Orchids fame) was born, and six years later is when it all started. They were both exposed to exotic plants and flowers at an early age, but when Andy became interested and latter obsessed with orchids, Harry some how resisted becoming involved with them for as long as he could. He assisted Andy in his passion by building his first two green houses, and Andy would reward him with a hybrid that was in bloom, tell him to bring it back when it goes out of bloom, and exchange it for one in bloom. Well this would only last about a year until he decided that he wanted to keep one and get it to re-bloom, the beginning of the end.

In 1986 Harry, with his soon to be wife Leslie moved with Andy and his orchid collection to Encinitas, California. Being constantly exposed to all of Andy's orchids was beginning to have an effect on Harry. Shortly after, Andy left for four months for Costa Rica, and placed Harry in charge of the collection. When Andy returned he found that Harry had not killed too many plants and managed to become even more addicted. Andy now, feeling more confident about leaving his orchid collection under Harry's care, began to plan a cycling trip through South America which ended up lasting two years. After that it was all over for Harry, he was completely addicted to orchids.

Harry assisted Andy part time, with the beginnings of Andy's Orchids, for 10 years while holding a fulltime job to pay the mortgage, going full time in November of 1998. His passion in orchids is in the Genera Sobralia and Elleanthus, but you ask him at any particular time of the year which is his favorite orchid, it will most likely be the one or ones in bloom at that time. He has traveled in Mexico the Caribbean, Ecuador and Fiji viewing orchids in the wild. Harry believes that growing epiphytic orchids the way they grow in nature is best and the orchids seem to agree. He will share with you his experiences with the perceptions and realities of growing orchids, and would like to dispel the fantasy that growing orchids is difficult.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE HARRY TO BRING AN ORCHID FOR YOU, GO TO [WWW.ANDYSORCHIDS.COM](http://WWW.ANDYSORCHIDS.COM) AND LOOK AT THE CATALOGUE AND THEN CONTACT HARRY AT [SPECIESNUT@ANDYSORCHIDS.COM](mailto:SPECIESNUT@ANDYSORCHIDS.COM). HE WILL BRING IT TO THE MEETING. HE WILL ALSO BE SELLING OTHER ORCHIDS.**

**BELOW ARE TWO PICTURES FROM THE EASTER SHOW AT THE CAL.**

**ATTACHED TO THE NEWSLETTER IS AN ARTICLE I WROTE THAT WAS JUST PUBLISHED IN ORCHID DIGEST, "BATEMAN, SKINNER AND KIDDIES." SEE YOU IN MAY. LOVE CAROL 254-4168**

