



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

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2013 1 pm
Piano music at 1 Rainbow Library
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2013
Barbecue, Mt. Charleston 12:30

THERE WILL ONLY BE
ONE NEWSLETTER FOR
JULY AND AUGUST.
SAVE THE DIRECTIONS
FOR THE BARBECUE

SPECIAL EVENTS

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"
April 6, 2013 Ron Kaufman
"Orchids at the Beach"
May 4, 2014 Dr. Harold Koopowitz
"A Fantastic Voyage Through Paphs"
June 1, 2013 Peter Lin
"Orchids for Every Day of the Year"

MUSIC AND FAVORS AT JULY 7 MEETING TO CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY! WE ARE HAVING A POTLUCK, TOO! BRING SOMETHING ...

It will be a particularly festive meeting. Dennis Sullivan will play patriotic songs, and I have also gotten all kinds of July 4th hats, necklaces, and favors to make it special. I think it will be fun. 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 remember we only have one oven. Ready and cool would be good. Thanks to **Pat Holland** for bringing the paper goods and **Christina de la Cruz** for providing drinks.

Our speaker is **Alan Koch** of Gold Country Orchids, a great speaker with lots of knowledge and a good sense of humor. He will speak on **MINIATURE CATTLEYA** orchids to grow with your cattleyas. 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. 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. On the next page is a list of limited availability plants at his nursery. Call to order them.

Alan Koch
Gold Country Orchids 1-916-645-8600

Gold Country Orchids Limited Availability

Aerangis hyaloids	Miniature with small white flowers	\$12.50
Angraecum didieri	Miniature species 2 inch BS	\$12.50
Cattleya kerrii	Miniature species very rare 2 inch NBS	\$20.00
Cattleya ueddemanniana v. coerulea	4 inch BS	\$25.00
Ceratocentron fessellii x Tubecentron Niu Girl	Orange miniature Vandaceous BS	\$12.50
Ctina Starrlyn	Rose and lavender Mini-cat for the home BS	\$10.00
Dendrobium lamyanae	orange miniature	\$15.00
Dendrobium polyphyllum	Miniature species 2 inch BS	\$12.50
Dendrobium tannii v. alba	Miniature related to bracteosum BS	\$12.50
Dyakia hendersoniana	Fragrant mini Vanda 2 inch BS	\$12.00
Laelia cinnabarina	Sibling cross 2 inch BS	\$15.00
	Laelia flava Superb cross 2 inch BS	\$15.00
Laelia harpophylla	Great cross out of Brazil 2 inch BS	\$20.00
Laelia milleri	Sibling cross of the red form 2 inch BS	\$20.00
Podangis dactyloceris	Sibling cross 4 inch BS	\$20.00
Zygopetalum Advance Australia 'HOF'	AM/AOS fragrant mini	\$20.00

BIOGRAPHY OF ALAN KOCH

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 250,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, as well as many International Publications. He has also been published in several proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

SAVE THESE DIRECTIONS. AS IS THE CUSTOM, THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST. MANY THANKS TO THE FABULOUS CATERERS DAN MUMAU AND MIKE LAWLESS WHO PROVIDE A FABULOUS FEAST FOR US ALL THROUGH THE GOODNESS OF THEIR HEARTS. THE CLUB PROVIDES MEATS- STEAK, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, SALMON, LAMB, SAUSAGES, RIBS—AND WE ASK EVERYONE TO BRING A DISH OR DESSERT FOR 12.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PICNIC:

Some of the streets have changed names on the way to Eldine's house. The first part of Alpine has changed to White Fir. Her address has changed from 70 Moritz Way to 305 Moritz Way. Her phone number at the cabin is:

1-872-5466

THE PICNIC IS AT 12:30 (not 2) SUNDAY 8/4/13

Directions to get to Eldine's:

Take 95 North. Make left on 157/Kyle Canyon Road. Pass the hotel, Ranger Station, Electric Station. Left on Rainbow Canyon. Right on White Fir which dead ends. Left on Alpine. Pass Arlberg. Right on Mont Blank. Left on Moritz Way 305 Moritz Way. Thanks, Eldine, for your generosity

Hope Tony is feeling better after his recent surgery... and happy birthday! Thanks to Leslie Doyle for her donation after selling misting sprays at the meeting...

Have fun, Wanda LaFollette, visiting your daughter in Salsburg this summer...

Glad Cathy Lofffield is on the mend after her accident... We love you! Hope Ole Borresen had fun with his family on his trip... We missed you... Wonderful to see Christina de la Cruz looking so well...

Thank you for the delicious food at the meeting Nita Bragg, Wanda LaFollette, Kathy Lindsay, Eileen McKyton and Vi Carlos. It was a feast! Fabulous to see Diana Smith, Marlene Benedict and Cathy Lofffield at the Orchid Digest Speakers Day. We had the best, best, time.

Glad Sandra Swan is all done with nursing school. Congratulations!

Hope Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless had fun at their family reunion.

Happy Aaron Schave, head of the choir, is done with the Men's Choir for the season, Hope to see you in July. We have missed you.

My First Love by Sue Fordyce with permission Thanks, Sue!

(You should know to understand the poem that after you remove the pollinia from an orchid, the flower will close up and die.) Below is the orchid she is describing, **LC Mary Elizabeth Bohn**.

I first fell in love
Back in an earlier time-
She was a blue haired old goddess
And her *Shape* was sublime

Her lip made me tremble
With a lust that was new
I had never felt this before
And my ardor just GREW

She was my greatest passion
And I loved her so wellI-
I possessed her at once-And the cost?
What the h...(that was irrelevant)

I took all her measurements
(and I am embarrassed to say)
I bragged about them at every soiree

I pampered and preened her-
Rubbed her leaves with whole milk
'til she shone in the sunlight
And her flesh felt like silk.

My friends all grew bored with
my brags of her beauty
but my admiration was such,
that I felt it my duty.

To capture her essence,
Her haughty, naughty look
I took special photos,
(that I hid in a book).

Other passions put aside
This love was my first-
Orchid love is both wonderful
(and sometimes a curse)

Mary Elizabeth Bohn
Even her name was so regal!
Soon I was captivated by an article



By Mrs. Carol Siegel.

Orchid Sex, say Ms. Carol
Is an intimate affair-
You need to play music
And brandish a toothpick with care...

Now, I won't give you the details,
I respect her too much, is the case-
(but I had a cigarette after
And a smile on my face)!

In my greed for her seedlings
I had acted in haste-
For soon her beauty had faded
And her complexion was *paste!*

I had taken her pollen cap
(gosh- saying that out loud sounds so loopy)!
But in this short time
Her *bloomers were droopy!!*

Collagen was needed
To plump up her lip
She was bent over, cockeyed
Like she had a bad hip!

When all was said and done,
She faded out soon
Her bloom fell on the floor,
and it made my heart swoon...

But my grief was short lived
I am fickle- it's true
But I met a NEW orchid-
She's a Laelia, from Peru....

My heart was again romanced
And I fell back in love-I
It happened over and over
These blessings from above.

My **Mary Elizabeth Bohn** never forgotten
She is with me each day,
For I've bought her over and over,
As a clone on EBAY.

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 or 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. 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. Think about adding a *Neofinetia falcata* to your collection. Charming Jason Fischer, of Orchid Limited nursery 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 has a whole section devoted to buying just miniature orchids.

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

9. START AN ORCHID LIBRARY

Even if you cannot grow orchids, collecting orchid books is an interesting thing to do. www.amazon.com, 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. Buying orchid magazines opens up a whole new world. Try Orchid Digest (www.orchiddigest.com) or Orchids Magazine (www.aos.org). The magazines will be a treat for you!

10. ATTEND CONFERENCE AND SHOWS

One of the great joys of orchid growing is going to orchid meetings and show. I always go to the San Francisco Orchid Show every February (Pacific Orchid Exposition) for my birthday, and I love to go to the Orchid Digest Speakers Day every June. How do you find out about orchid shows? Orchids Magazine (www.aos.org) and Orchid Digest (www.orchiddigest.com) always have news about upcoming shows. You can buy orchids, listen to speakers, meet new friends, and drool over the orchids you wish you had blooming in your house.

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.

12. 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) Megathrive from Norman's Orchids, and I have all kind of new growth. It makes me happy with my hobby. I find the best potting material from Fred Clarke who has long sphagnum moss and New Zealand bark and perlite at reasonable prices (www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com) and from Repotme (www.repotme.com) which is a little pricey but has a fabulous variety of pots and media.

13. 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 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 7. Love Carol 254-4168