

# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

## THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016**  
**PARTY 12:30 pm MY HOUSE**  
**WE WILL HAVE VALET**  
**PARKING**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

DEC 4 HOLIDAY PARTY 12:30 PM  
SECOND SUNDAY ALL THROUGH 2017  
EXCEPT JUNE 4

January 8, 2017 Ron Kaufmann  
"Phragmipedium"

Feb 12, 2017 Fred Clarke "Orchids  
101"

March 12, 2017 Carol Siegel "The Role  
of Color in Orchids"

March 25 A Passion for Orchids W  
Charleston Library 10-4

April 9, 2017 Peter Lin "Brassavola  
Species and Their Hybrids"

May 14, 2017 Ron Parsons "The  
Orchids of Colombia"

June 4, 2017 Art Chadwick "The Great  
Cattleya Species of the Cut Flower  
Era"

July 9 Barbecue Diana's house "Setting  
Up a Rainforest"

August 13 Mark Romansky "Judging  
Orchids"

Sept 10 Mary Gerritsen "Orchids of the  
Lost World"

October 8 Keith Davis "Orchid Growing  
Tips"

November 12 Steve Frowine TBA

## ELECTIONS 2016



**President Carol Siegel**  
**Vice Pres Cathy Loftfield**  
**Secretary Mark Romansky**  
**Treasurer Diana Smith**

**Thank you all for your show of support. We are  
honored to serve the members of the club.**



***COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY 12:30 Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at my house (earlier than usual meeting time)*** We are excited about our Holiday Party to be held at my home on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm. 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. I will provide valet parking free of charge. If you park yourself, you can only park on the side of the street with houses. 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 kindly agreed to bring meats:

Ham- Bettye and John Williams

Pork roast- Wanda and Bruce La Follette

Salmon- Christina de la Cruz

Marinated shrimp- Cathy and Jim Loftfield

Turkey- Cathy and Bruce Weber, Eileen McKyton

Fried turkeys- Joel Davidson

Beef- Jeanne Powers

Pasta- Ole Borrsen

I will provide paper goods, a margarita machine, champagne, drinks and wine, various food, and entertainment and 2016 club pens. I personally will provide Michael Shane on keyboard and Carol Joyce (Mendocino) to sing. She is just wonderful. I will provide two ladies to put tinsel in hair and glitter tattoos wherever, a photo booth, a nail artist painting



orchids on nails (guys, too!) , and lot of flashing, blinky 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.

Thank you to Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless, Jeanne Powers, Jeri Lee, Diana Smith, Sherrie Brown, Liz Waters, and Shirley Grieg for the delicious food for the October meeting. We welcomed Maria Demeo as a new member and Kate Smith, Christopher Frost, Carol Auerswald, Dan Reeve and Mary Sharp as guests. Welcome. Come to the party!

Steve Frowine did a very interesting talk on growing under lights. I have attached a list of supplies he uses to the email with the newsletter. He forgot to distribute the list, even though I copied it for him. You can print it out.

I also grow under lights, and I have not incorporated his suggestions as of yet. However, this is what I usually tell people who ask me about how I am doing it at present. He doesn't vary the time lights are on with the season, and he doesn't use expensive bulbs like I do. This is just what I have done for the past many years.

## **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, I take each plant to the sink and water it for at least 15 seconds. When I am 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 in winter, twice in summer. I do not do well with mounted plants. I try to look at my orchids for 15 minutes a day, like playing with the dog, so I know what is going on and avoid trouble.

2. Humidity- I have a hydrofogger from [www.hydrofogger.com](http://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. I buy little bacteriostatic cubes from Hydrofarm which last 6 months which help keep the water clean.

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 four 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) 12 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](http://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. I am saving up to try LED lights which will use less electricity.

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.

I use fertilizer Feed-Me from repotme.com but use a bloom boosting fertilizer in October-November. I fertilize every other time I water.

7. I don't have much trouble with bugs. I NEVER use poison. I try to be very clean, throwing out dead leaves and generally keeping things neat. 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 any 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)

Twass 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 been 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...**

## **WHITE ELEPHANT SALE IN JANUARY...**

It's time once more for our annual white elephant sale, **JANUARY 8th**, 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. In January, Ron Kaufmann will speak on **Phragmipediums**.

