

## **GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY AUGUST 7, 2016**

**1 PM**

**CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR**



**PIZZA PARTY AND  
CHOCOLATE BAR!**

### **OUR GREAT PLANS!**

Rainbow Library Buffalo and Cheyenne  
Aug 7 Mary Gerritsen "The Orchids of Borneo"

Sept 11 Diana "What Kind of Orchid Is It?"

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday PLUS Mounting Orchids

Oct 2, 2016 "A Day of Potting" Carol, Mark, Cathy, Dan, Steve

Nov 6, 2016 Steve Frowine "Growing Under Lights and In the Home"

December 4, 2016 Holiday Party

SECOND SUNDAY ALL THROUGH 2017

January 8, 2017 Ron Kaufmann

"Phragmidpedium"

February 12, 2017 Fred Clarke

"Orchids 101"

March 12, 2017 Carol Siegel "10 Ways to Kill an Orchid"

April 9, 2017 Peter Lin

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

June 11, 2017 Art Chadwick "Cattleyas"

July 9 Barbecue Diana's house

### **MARY GERRITSEN SPEAKS ON ORCHIDS OF BORNEO AND WE HAVE A PIZZA PARTY!**

Our July meeting was lots of fun. In July, talented speaker Mark Romansky presented a new and original talk on "Forgotten Orchids," fascinating orchids like Disa and Habenaria that were once popular and still are fascinating to grow. He did a great job, entertaining and instructing us with interesting tales of the wonderful world of orchids. Thank you so much, Mark! You are a great speaker, relaxed and knowledgeable, and we are lucky to have you. Many thanks to Steve Campbell who helped with orchid sales and did a great job with setting up our slide show. We are so grateful to Steve and his wife Caroline. Thanks to Ole and Ken for providing marvelous hotel plants. I hope they know how much we appreciate them. The July potluck was a lot of fun, just delicious, and it looked especially beautiful on the eight gorgeous table cloths Caroline Campbell made and donated. Thanks to me, Stephanie Ciers and Mark for the paper goods and drinks. Thank you in a BIG way to Wanda & Bruce La Follette who have paid for our piano player for the rest of the year! Thanks, too, to Myra Glassman who helped out with orchid sales, and Steve Hochman who manned the front desk, greeting everyone. We were glad to have guests Rebecca and Lewish Orndoff, Vivian Robers, Diane Friegang, Tanya Lamb, Lisa Kambouras, Terrina Petyan, and Blanche York. Hope to see you soon!

All i want is  
Peace, love,  
understanding,  
and a  
chocolate bar  
BIGGER than my  
head.

EVERYBODY SHOULD BRING  
SOMETHING CHOCOLATE- CHOCOLATE  
COOKIES, CANDY, CAKE, CHOCOLATE  
STRAWBERRIES, PIE, ICE CREAM, SHOES,  
(WELL, NOT SHOES...) WITH SERVING  
UTENSILS. DIANA SMITH WILL BRING  
THE PAPER GOODS, AND JEANNIE  
SALLES WILL BRING THE DRINKS. IT  
WILL BE FUN! I WILL BRING THE PIZZA!

## Biography Of Our August Speaker

Our speaker will speak on the Orchids of Borneo, where it is said that 10% of the world's orchids may be found. Mary Gerritsen, Ph.D. is an independent biotechnology consultant who has been growing orchids (mostly species) on and off for more than 30 years, and since relocating to the San Francisco Bay area in 1997 started to amass a collection of small cool growing miniature species such as Masdevallias, Porroglossums, Lepanthes and other assorted tiny gems. She also has a second intermediate greenhouse, filled with larger species such as Angraecoids, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, Laelias, Phalaenopsis and Bulbophyllums. She loves to see orchids growing in situ, and has made it her mission over the last few years to see as many as possible, with trips to see and photograph orchids (and other flora as well) in Canada, various states in the USA, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, China, Germany, Rhodes and Crete, Australia and most recently, Borneo. She is the co-author of two botanical books: [Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World](#), and [Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives](#), with fellow San Francisco Orchid Society Member and well known photographer, Ron Parsons. Mary is now working on a third book "Miniature Orchids" with Ron Parsons. In addition to being a member of the San Francisco Orchid Society, and the Pleurothallid Alliance, Mary has served as the vice president and president of the Peninsula Orchid Society (San Mateo). She is currently the president of the San Francisco Orchid Society .

## Borneo's plants

### Vegetation gone wild

Carnivorous plants, the world's largest flower and trees that can reach 60 metres are all part of Borneo's extraordinary tropical vegetation.

Borneo is conservatively estimated to contain 15,000 plant species – a diversity that rivals the African continent's – and may well have the highest plant diversity of any region on Earth.



Banyan tree's flowers create colorful views and are the symbol of immortality. Borneo.

© WWF-Indonesia / Panda Click / Edi Suhadi



Borneo has about 3,000 tree species, approximately 3,000 orchid species (some of the most beautiful being the rarest and most endangered) and more than 50 carnivorous pitcher plant species.

Peaks of plant diversity can occur in very small areas in Borneo. The island holds the world record for tree species richness, with 1,186 species in a 0.5 square km chunk of Sarawak forest (the size of about 52 football fields).

Many of Borneo's plants are found nowhere else in the world – some 5,000 species (or 34%) of flowering plants on the island fall into this category, far ahead of neighbouring Sumatra's 12% of plant endemism.

Several of Borneo's plants challenge the senses – eight species of *Rafflesia*, a parasitic plant, produce the largest flower in the world (up to one metre across), while the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) sporadically



blooms into the largest unbranched inflorescence in the world. The latter also produces a characteristic fragrance when it flowers, similar to the smell of a decomposing corpse.

#### Borneo's plants contributing to medical research

For centuries, Borneo's inhabitants have been using and trading the island's plants as food, medicine, building materials and countless other applications.

Now, pharmacological research is bringing to light new compounds that could achieve medical successes at a global scale. One example is a Sarawak shrub that produces a substance which could kill human cancer cells.

This compound is reportedly effective against 57 of 60 kinds of human cancer cells, and is proving just as effective as the leading anticancer drug, paclitaxel.

Other breakthroughs include compounds found in tree latex which can cure a wide range of HIV strains, and antimalarial substances found in the bark of the langsat tree (*Lansium domesticum*).

#### The wild orchids of Borneo

Experts say that nowhere else on Earth nurtures such an extensive and diverse collection of orchids as Borneo.

Approximately 3,000 magnificent species of orchid can be found here, more than anywhere else in the world.

The past three years have been very fruitful when it comes to new orchid discoveries. Around 37 new orchids have been discovered in the Heart of Borneo, accounting for the lion's shares of the 51 new orchids discovered on the entire island since the beginning of 2007.

#### The treacherous habits of Borneo's carnivorous plants

Some of the most amazing plants to grace the Borneo rainforests are the pitchers (*Nepenthes species*), which have evolved a liquid-filled receptacle that attracts insects. Visual and olfactory cues lure prey into the receptacle cavity, where they drown and dissolve into the liquid.

Like all carnivorous plants, pitchers are found in places where soils are too poor in minerals and/or too acidic for most plants to be able to grow.

#### New plant discoveries



- **A beautiful wild orchid (*Thrixspermum erythrolomum*).**

Around 37 new orchids have been discovered in the Heart of Borneo, accounting for the lion's shares of the 51 new orchids discovered on the entire island since the beginning of 2007.

- ***Mitrephora vittata***, described from Sabah and Sarawak. Borneo represents the major centre of diversity for *Mitrephora* species.

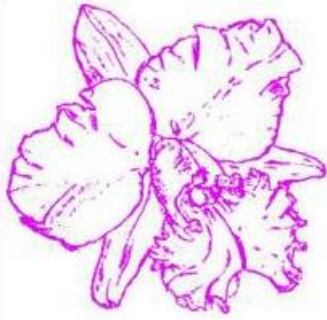
- **Two beautiful orchids**, *Podochilus marsupialis* described from Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan, and *Trichoglottis tinekeae* described from Sabah and Sarawak.

- **A species of miniature palm tree**, *Licuala*, that is "possibly new to Brunei, if not to science" was one of a number of new discoveries scientists made during a two-year expedition into Brunei's Sungai Ingei forests.



Wild orchid (*Dendrobium lohokii*), Borneo.

© WWF / Amos Tan



Chadwick & Son  
Orchids, Inc.



# Orchid Garnishes

by: Art Chadwick

Photo Credit: Olivia Chadwick

Food aficionados take their meals seriously - the ingredients, the health attributes, the farm sources. But, most of all, they delight in the presentation. One aspect of culinary design that has been growing in popularity is the use of garnishes which artistically add to food dishes. And what better accent piece than a colorful orchid blossom.



***A spray of purple Dendrobium flowers adds a feel of the tropics to this crab cake and asparagus entrée.***

The use of orchids as garnishes in the United States



dates back fifty years when Dendrobium producers in Hawaii began raising acres of plants for the cut flower industry. A single stem of Dendrobium flowers cost less than a dollar and had 12-15 small blossoms that would last several weeks in water. Upscale restaurants would add a flower or two to their entrees to give a tropical look.

By the 1980's, Dendrobium breeding had advanced and new varieties were introduced that were larger and more vibrant. Chefs began requesting specific hybrids such as Ekapol 'Big Panda' and Sonia 'Bom' which were 3" across and had deep magenta and white petals. Nearly the size of crab cakes, orchid garnishes were beginning to get the attention of the patron.



***Everyday French toast takes on a new meaning when several Phalaenopsis blossoms are strategically placed as garnishes.***

With the advent of social media, food presentation or 'plating' as it is referred to, has become its own industry. Dendrobiums are still the orchid garnish of choice, but culinary designers are increasingly looking to other genera to enhance their dishes.



Oncidiums or 'Dancing Ladies' work well because of the large number of blossoms they produce. The stems often grow branches, resulting in dozens of small flowers, approx 1 1/2" wide. The colors are commonly 'sunset' tones - yellows, oranges, and burgundies with some offering a hint of fragrance.



***A simple sprig of burgundy Oncidiums adds visual appeal to this broccoli quiche dish.***

Phalaenopsis or 'Moth Orchid' hybrids can be found in nearly all sizes and colors. Some varieties may have flowers 4" across, so only one blossom is needed as a garnish. The cut stems last up to three weeks so there is ample time to use them.

Though orchid flowers are edible, food designers primarily use the delicate petals for color and texture. It is important that the orchids must not have been sprayed with pesticides if they are to be eaten. Though lemon wedges and parsley sprigs are the most common food garnishes, today's chefs and even home cooks can improve their culinary

presentation with the simple addition of cut orchids. The old adage, 'You eat with your eyes', invites the use of orchids which are so visually appealing that almost any plate will seem more delicious.

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*Think Outside the Pot....*

## *Meet Our Dendrobium Specialist!*

*by: Sara Nunn*

*It takes a "village" to raise a child, and it takes "teamwork" to run a greenhouse! One of our long time dedicated team-*

*members is Aaron Talley, and*

*he has worn MANY hats around the greenhouse for us for over 10 years.*

*Aaron grew up near the greenhouse in Powhatan and took a horticulture class at*



Powhatan High School.

He started in the Oncidium greenhouse repotting our clients' plants and currently he is our Dendrobium specialist.

In addition to repotting, Aaron is our Maintenance Foreman and keeps the nursery in good working order. Many of our clients will recognize Aaron as he is our primary delivery driver and regularly navigates the Richmond roads.

Aaron was kind enough to share some "interesting facts" about Dendrobiums:

5 things to know about Dendrobiums:

1. They can bloom off the new canes or old.
2. They don't have a blooming season and can bloom anytime of year since they don't need to make a new pseudobulb in order to bloom.
3. They need higher light to bloom.
4. Older plants can have many flower spikes.  
We once had one with 18 spikes.
5. The plants get better with age. The more canes, the more flower spikes.

We appreciate Aaron and his willingness to jump in and help with the many jobs around the greenhouse, wait on customers with a smile, and carefully deliver

*plants to the retail store and to businesses and customers all over the area.*

*Thanks, Aaron, for your hard work and commitment to Chadwicks!!*



### *How much is too much?*

*Light is crucial to growing and blooming orchids. Too much light and orchids sunburn; too little light and they will not bloom.*

*A simplified way to determine your light levels is by creating a shadow with your hand at mid day.*

*Hold your hand 12 inches above the orchid. If there is no shadow, then there is not enough light.*







*If there is a fuzzy shadow, this is an intermediate light level and good for paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis.*

*If you see a distinct shadow, then this is a high light level and good for growing cattleyas, oncidiums and dendrobiums. Vandas require even higher light levels.*



*During these hot summer months, feel the leaves of your orchids. They should not feel hot to the touch. Permanent damage can occur quickly. You may need to move your orchids or add a curtain to protect them from the summer heat or intense light.*



*Orchid of the Month*

*Pot. Jerry Rehfield  
'Hawai'i'*



**Chadwick Orchids**

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