



**GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY
THE ORCHID COLUMN**

CAROL SIEGEL,

**HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 10
12:30 PM MY HOUSE**

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our beloved member and friend Tony Billitere. He died in an automobile accident in California. He was our Past President and worked tirelessly for years providing hotel plants. He was the nicest, friendliest man, beloved by all of us. He will be missed. May his soul rest in peace. Dan Mumau sent me a lovely e-mail which expresses all our feeling:

So very sorry and sad to hear this Carol.

Mike and I are both shocked to hear this news. I just remember the last time I spoke with him was at the September meeting. This seems so hard to believe.

He truly was a great guy. I've known him for many years when I first became a member and met him at the little library room in the old Garden Club building. He was an inspiration to me and his wife at the time was so sweet as well. I remember visiting them at their house and remembering the time he visited us.

He's truly a great gentleman who will always be remembered in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family,
Dan Mumau

CLUB EVENTS

We usually meet the second Sunday of the month at the Rainbow Library 3150 Buffalo at Cheyenne at the Meeting Room. Live Piano music at 1.

Meeting 2.

December 10 Holiday Party Home Carol Siegel

January 14, 2018 Tom Mirenda “Orchids of Costa Rica”

February 11 Jason Fischer “Growing on a Log”

March 11 Ron Kaufmann “Orchids of Tropical America”

March 24, 2018 “A Passion for Orchids” Show

April 8 Carol Siegel “Orchids of Hawaii” And Luau Dancers and Singers!”

May *Epipactis gigantea* walk Calico Basin

May 13 Harold Koopowitz “Slipper Orchids”

June 3 Peter Lin “Lovely Laelias” July 8

Norman Fang “Harlequin Orchids” August

12 Mark Romansky

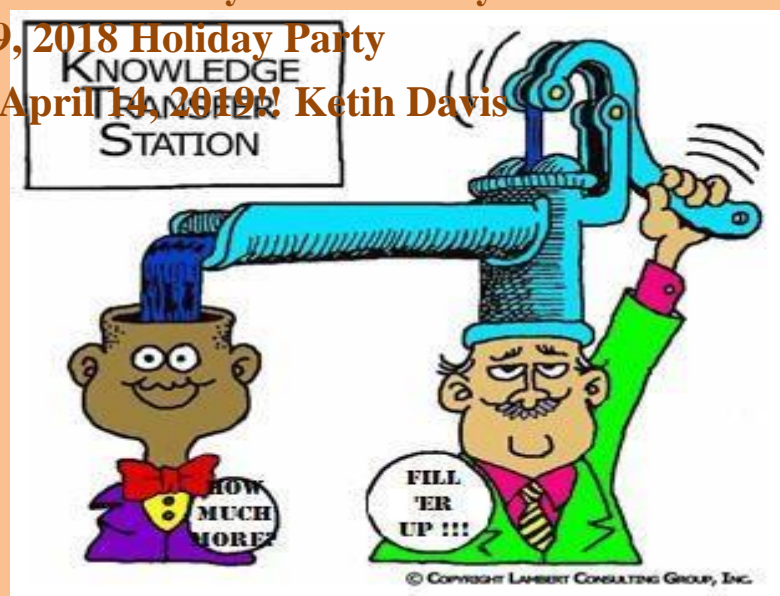
September 9 Diana Smith Barbecue and talk

Oct 14 Fred Clarke “Modern Cattleyas and How to Grow Them”

Nov 11 Cathy Loftfield “Lycaste” December

9, 2018 Holiday Party

April 14, 2019! Ketih Davis





COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY 12:30 Dec 10th at my house (earlier than usual meeting time) We are excited about our Holiday Party to be held at my home on Sunday, December 10th 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 Tell them at the front gate that you are with the orchid club. My phone is 702-254-4168 if you need to reach me. 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- Steve Hochman

Salmon- Christina de la Cruz, Wanda La Follette

Marinated shrimp- Cathy Loftfield

Turkey- Cathy Weber, Eileen McKyton

Fried turkeys- Joel Davidson

Beef – Linda Reed and Diana Smith

Pasta- Ole Borresen, Maria Demeo

There will be valet parking as parking is only permitted on the side of the street closest to the houses. I will provide paper goods, a margarita machine, champagne, drinks and wine, various food, and entertainment and 2017 club key chains. I personally will provide a new man on keyboard and Carol Joyce (Mendocino) to sing. She is just wonderful. I will provide a lady and a gent to put tinsel in hair and glitter tattoos wherever, , 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. Hilo Orchid Farms is providing the orchids, and the club is subsidizing the holiday plants. 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.



The current Board was re-elected and is proud to serve the club again.

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

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.

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 five 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) 13 years ago. I have ten 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. 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 believe I am poisoning myself and my environment as well. 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. AND it is gentle to me and my environment.

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...

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, VH's'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, Tom Mirenda will speak on the Orchids of Costa Rica.