



BARBECUE AT HOME OF DIANA SMITH JULY 9 AT 12:30 pm EARLIER THAN USUAL

It is hard to believe that it has been three years since we had our annual barbecue. We used to have it every year at Eldine Steven's house in Mt. Charleston and, when this proved too much for her, we moved it to Shelly North's home. Shelly has since moved to New Mexico, and we are lucky that this year Diana Smith has invited us to her lovely home at the base of Mt. Charleston, much closer to the city. The good news is that we don't have to trek up to Mt. Charleston or worry about the summer wildfires (Who could ever forget...) -Every year we delight to the culinary masterpieces of master chefs Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless who get up early in the morning to cart food and set up a gorgeous table laden with every kind of meat- hamburgers, hotdogs, steak, salmon, sausage, lamb, chicken- you name it! They are professional caterers (acateredaffair@aol.com), and they are famous for their beautiful parties and events. It is always a fabulous feast. We ask each member to bring up a dish with serving spoons, cooked, cold or cut-up- a salad, side dish, vegetable, or dessert, enough for 10-12 people. It is a mystery why we always get such a great variety of delectable dishes. Is it true that orchid people are also the best cooks? We think so! We provide drinks , meats and plates. If you want alcohol, bring up some beer or wine. The picnic will go rain or shine. Diana asks that if you have folding chairs, you bring them. Diana will be doing a presentation on building a rainforest greenhouse.

Rainforests



In her own words, Diana says:

“What's the best place for many orchids?

A rainforest, of course. And how can you find a rainforest in the Mohave Desert?

Build one!

That was my motivation and focus when I decided to upgrade my 8' x 16' lean-to greenhouse last spring. It has been a challenge to complete, and I'm still tweaking it 16 months later. But it's also been a joy to switch my attention from the grind of orchid maintenance to pure enjoyment.

Join the members of the GLVOS at my home in the desert for an informal presentation on building a rainforest greenhouse and potluck/barbecue on July 9 starting at 12:30 PM. Our very own team from A Catered Affair will be mastering the grill and making memorable meats. Members and guests please bring a yummy side dish, salad, or desert to share that serves 12. **Seating is limited, so bring lawn chairs, etc. if you have them.**

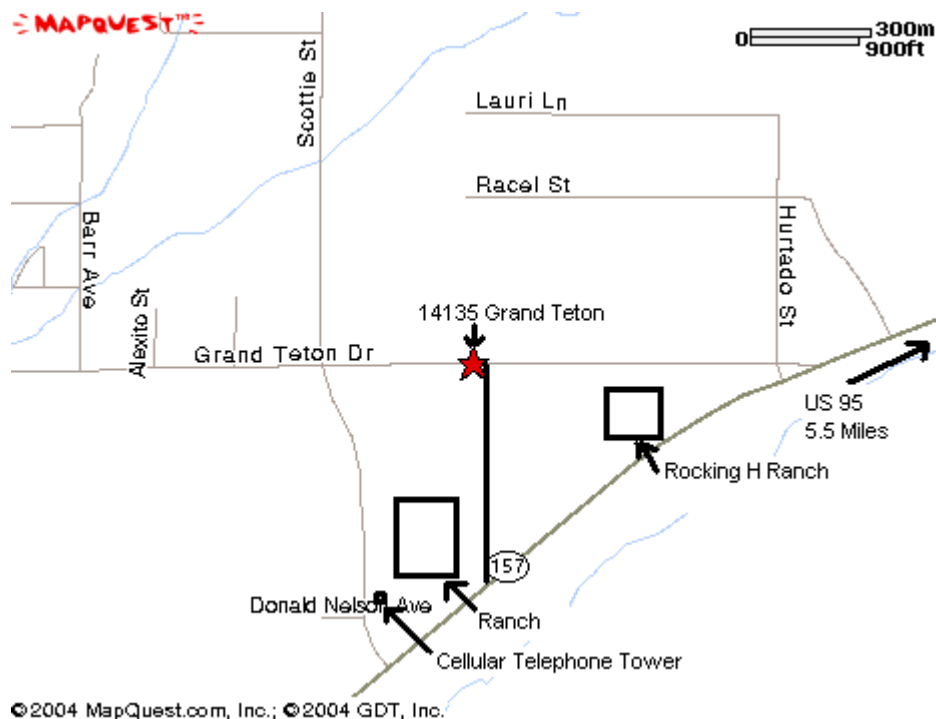
Attached is a map and written direction to get here. Please be aware that map apps get the directions **wrong!** (Ha, ha, funny but true.) Call (702)655-6717 if you get lost! ---DIANA SMITH

Directions to The Smith's House 14135 Grand Teton Las Vegas 89166

1. Take **US-95 North** toward Reno.
2. About 1 mile after you pass the Skye Canyon Park Drive Exit, look for signs for NV HWY 157, also known as Kyle Canyon Road. You should also see a sign for Mt Charleston. Turn **LEFT** on **Hwy 157**.
3. After about 5 miles, you should see the sign for Hurtado Street on the right. Continue past Hurtado. Look for the **second** driveway on the **RIGHT** side of the road. There is a black mailbox with our address on it. This is the path to our house. You will see another ranch and a cellular telephone tower a bit past the driveway.
4. Turn **RIGHT** on the driveway that is next to the mailbox and the ranch and follow it about 1/8th of a mile up to the house.
5. If you get to Scottie Road you've gone too far on HWY 157.
6. The phone number is 702-655-6717, just in case you get sidetracked.

Additional Information

1. Wear very casual clothes. It can get real dusty when the wind blows. Also we have two large Dogs that think everybody looks better wearing fur.
2. Please bring folding/lawn chairs if you have them.
3. I will provide all the food and will have soft drinks, iced tea, and bottled water. If you want anything stronger to drink, bring it on out.
4. Show up around 12:30. We'll probably start the cooking shortly thereafter.





OUR PROGRAMS

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.

July 9, 2017 Barbecue Home Diana Smith
“Building a Rainforest” 12:30

August 13 Mark Romansky “Judging Orchids”

September 10 Mary Gerritsen “Orchids of the Lost World”

October 8 Keith Davis “Orchid Growing Tips”

November 12 Steve Frowine “Fantastic Phals”

December 10 Holiday Party Home Carol Siegel

January 14, 2018 Tom Mirenda tBA

February 11 Jason Fischer “Growing on a Log”

March 11 Ron Kaufmann TBA

April 8 Greenhouse Tour

May 11 Harold Koopowitz “Orchids of Thailand”

June 3 Peter Lin

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

WE LOVED OUR JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting was a blast as we really enjoyed our Hawaiian luau complete with dancers and singers. Some of our group did the hula (who knew we had such talent!). Thanks to Joe Raba for organizing the entertainment and to Cathy Loftfield, Joe Raba, Al de Ricco, Carol Siegel and Diana Smith for the whole roast pig and Hawaiaan specialties. Such fun. We loved having Art Chadwick of Chadwick Orchids who spoke on the cattleyas used in the cut flower era and sold his great plants.

We welcomed guests Benjamin Richards, Vira Ross (who did the hula!) and new members Eleanor Markle, Bonnie Lowe, Liza Dulay, and Shannon Beesley. In the past months, we have also welcomed guests Robin Whisenhunt, Gayle Tyree, Caroline Martinez, James Tyler, Mina Garman, Rayma Ramirez and new members Cheryl and Terry Sago, Karon Anderson, Marlene Jacobs. Thanks to Steve Hochman for a great job as publicity and member chair.

WE ARE GOING TO GET PLANTS FROM THE VENETIAN AND FROM THE PALAZZO!!!



We are very grateful to Ole Borresen and to Joel Davidson and Ken Summerville for picking up, storing, and selling orchids from the hotels. We raise money for our educational programs that way. For decades we have gotten spent orchids from the MGM properties, but in the last year, MGM properties has stopped allowing us to rescue these orchids and now throws them in the trash. A pity... Joel Davidson, Steve Hochman, Tony Billitere and Jeri Lee have tried to persuade them to change their minds to no avail. It is a corporate decision and is nothing personal. We still get some plants from the Wynn.

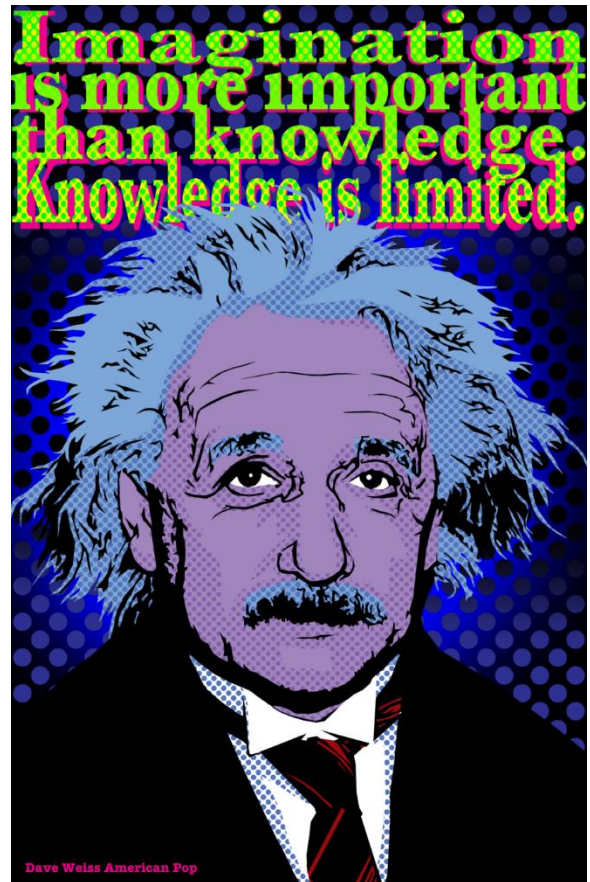
I wrote to the Sands Las Vegas Properties (Venetian, Palazzo, Convention Center) and suggested that they let us rescue their orchids. We had never tried them before. They are very interested in sustainability, the environment, and the community. It is owned by one family, the Adelsons, and they are wonderful people. They seem very interested in having us re-purpose their orchid.

Last month, Diana Smith, Ken Summerville, Ole Borresen, Joel Davidson and I met with the heads of horticulture, floral and sustainability at the Sands LV properties. They were actually THRILLED that we reached out to them and are most willing to provide plants for us to re-purpose for our club. We are so happy at this new opportunity, and we are proud to be part of their sustainability effort.

STEVE HOCHMAN'S INGENIOUS ORCHID GROWING AREA....



STEVE HOCHMAN INVITED DIANA AND ME TO SEE HIS GROWING AREA IN HIS KITCHEN. IT IS JUST WONDERFUL. HE IS GROWING DOZENS OF MOUNTED ORCHIDS ON RODS FACING THE SHADE-CLOTHED WINDOW SUPPLEMENTED WITH T5 LIGHT FIXTURES. HE HAS A HUMIDIFIER AND PLASTIC SHEETING TO KEEP UP HUMIDITY. HE GROWS POTTED PLANTS ON EGG CRATES WITH WATER TO KEEP HUMIDITY AROUND THE PLANTS. HE TAKES HIS PLANTS TO THE SINK WHERE HE IS AN EXPERT IN WATER AND FERTILIZER AND HAS AN INGENUOUS DEVICE TO HANG HIS MOUNTED PLANTS WHILE THEY DRY OFF. WE ARE HOPING THAT STEVE ALLOWS US TO COME TO HIS HOUSE DURING THE GREENHOUSE TOUR SINCE HE HAS SO MUCH TO SHARE. GOOD JOB, STEVE! REMEMBER EVERYONE- YOU ARE LIMITED ONLY BY YOUR IMAGINATION!!



JULY FIREWORKS

By Thomas Mirenda, *Originally published in Orchids Magazine – July 2006*

Family Gatherings and Grilling Bring Together the Holiday Spirit

SUMMER FUN REACHES ITS PEAK in July, with the hot weather finally arriving and sunscreen flying off the shelves. For kids, it just doesn't get any better than July — barbeques, cooling off in the sprinkler or pool by day and backyard fireworks displays by night. Occasionally, there will be the unusual child who gravitates away from all the hullabaloo in the backyard and finds that shady spot where orchids are growing. With bursts of Epidendrum and brassia flowers and huge cornet like scapes of glowing encyclia and myrmecophila blossoms reaching skyward, many a budding interest in orchids has been ignited by the fascinating array of plants in bloom this month. Keep an eye out for those young ones who see the miracles of nature as more than rivals for the glitzy fireworks, but as the true marvels they are. Take the time to nurture and perhaps share a plant or two with a youthful relative or neighborhood nature child.

HEAT With temperatures often rising into the 90s, many orchid plants are stressed. Large and tender new growths generated this past spring are maturing and hardening off but are still susceptible to sunburn, heat stress and fungal infections. Therefore, the bulk of our activities this month are related to minimizing the effects of heat on our plants.

READ ABOUT PLANTS Many orchids, particularly those from seasonally dry forests, such as encyclias, myrmecophilas and brassavolas, seem to do well in the summer heat. Even the many deciduous Dendrobium species and hybrids that require cool winter temperatures are growing rampantly now. Their adaptations of extreme succulence and large pseudobulbs give them the ability to withstand heat and dryness better than orchids from more seasonally uniform habitats like montane tropical rainforests, such as miltonias, many paphiopedilums, pleurothallids and even phalaenopsis. These orchids tend to have smaller pseudobulbs, or none, and have less succulent foliage. For these plants, shade and hydration during the summer heat is a real necessity.

COOLING PLANS Basically, there are three strategies for cooling off your plants: shading, misting and air flow. All of these strategies either separately or combined can ease the stresses of summer heat on orchids significantly. But taken to excess, these heat defenses can do more harm than good.

Shading Most of our orchids benefit from some shading during the hottest months, but many also need bright light to grow strongly and store enough nutrients to bloom once their new growths have matured. Cattleyas, cymbidiums, standard dendrobiums and vandas will languish with weak and spindly new growths if kept constantly in deep shade. For such plants, misting and air flow are better strategies for cooling. For phalaenopsis and most pleurothallids, deeper shade gives better results.

Misting Many high-light orchids, notably vandas and cymbidiums, benefit from a fine cooling mist at the height of the day's temperatures. Feel your orchid's leaves on a hot day. If they are hot to the touch, they have shut down and are in danger of burning. Just a quick wetting down with a light mist is often enough to cool the leaves down. Cymbidiums in particular seem to grow better when cooled in this way. Automatic misting systems are available for both outdoor and greenhouse growers. Still, beware of wetting down leaves in full sun, as the water can overheat or

act like a lens. This usually happens only under glass or on window sills where the air flow is poor. The other danger with misting is waterlogging your plants. Don't mist so much that your plants never dry between waterings. Also, remember that water sitting in the new growths of your phalaenopsis plants at night is a sure recipe for the dreaded crown rot.

Air Flow Perhaps the most important and overlooked aspect of cooling is air movement. A beam of light hitting a thermometer will make it register much higher than the actual ambient temperature. The same is true of leaves. If light hits the same portion of a leaf on a hot day with no breeze to cool it, it will overheat and burn quickly. But if a light moist breeze is caressing your plants, it will dissipate this heat. This can also be done to excess, for example, if the air movement is too strong, it can prevent plants from taking in carbon dioxide, or cause desiccation.

MICROCLIMATES Put maximum/minimum thermometers and monitor the light and air flow in various spots of your growing areas. You'll be surprised at how much they can vary. You might find, for example, that the sunny south side of your greenhouse near the exhaust fan is a prime spot for dendrobiums. Or the cool, breezy spot under the beech tree is ideal for the miltoniopsis. There is a copper beech tree near our facility here in Washington, DC., where legend has it that Abraham Lincoln used to like to sit and write because it was 10 degrees cooler under that tree than anywhere else in the infamously torrid DC summer. There may be spots like that in your own back yard. Seek them out. Those are great spots to summer your orchids.

FERTILIZING Even though your plants have been growing so well these last few months, beware of fertilizing on hot days. When plants overheat, they shut down metabolism and basically stop growing. If their medium and roots are imbued with plentiful, but unused, fertilizer, it can sour your mix and burn your roots. Take the time to leach your plants of excess fertilizer salts, and use plant foods sparingly (if at all) during excessively hot weather.

|

