

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

THE ORCHID COLUMN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2007



GREENHOUSE TOUR
1 PM ONE HOUR EARLIER
THAN USUAL
YES, ONE HOUR EARLIER
THAN USUAL
EARLIER!!!

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

On a delightfully cool October afternoon, we had a really delightful and very cool meeting. We laughed a lot and made lots of noise and generally had a great time. It was so much fun getting together again.

Helen Hersh entertained us with her expertly cultivated, beautifully photographed orchids, all grown on her overflowing windowsills. It was amazing that she was able to grow so many varieties of orchids all together on a table in front of a window. There were cattleyas and catasetums and slipper orchids and many others all in glorious, award-winning bloom. She surprised us by not having success with phalaenopsis, the classic windowsill orchid.

She bought Rubbermaid oblong containers and fitted Rubbermaid

dish drains inside them, enabling her to water with a hose right on her table without getting water everywhere. She had no curtains on her windows and felt it made no difference. She kept catts a little closer to the window but generally did not "scientifically" pay much regard to foot-candle requirements. She asked, "Why make life difficult." (Why, indeed!)

Her big secret was to sit plants directly in a saucer of water, especially but not limited to phragmipedium. She felt this was very important for windowsill growing success. She refilled the few inches of water every few days!

(Just a side note- If you are growing in Aussie Gold, you might not want to do this since AG is a very water-retentive medium).

We especially thank Diana Smith who was the angel of the month. She picked Helen up at the airport, housed her, drove her to dinner and to the meeting, helped her unpack

her plants, AND carted all the raffle plants. At the last minute, there was nobody to pick up the hotel plants and darling Diana raced down and picked them up. Is there any wonder why we all love her- especially me!

We had 11 people sign up to help Tony Billitere in the future with hotel raffle plant pickup and storage- Diana Smith, Cathy Loftfield, Gail Harris, Pat Holland, Mickey Matthews, Claudia Drake, Jackie Braverman, John and Judie Tuthill, Dan Mumau and Aaron Schave. WOW! You can always count on our members to step up to the plate and pitch in. Tony is going to be dancin'! By the way, we are so happy that Dorothy Billitere is doing so well after her recent illness. Tony will be selling 2008 Entertainment Books again this year. The price is \$20, and Tony kindly donates \$4 a book to the club, lovely man.

Elections will be held at the November meeting. Nominations can be made to our Election Committee Chairlady Scotty Nogaim (363-3991). The current board is willing to serve again if elected- Carol Siegel for president, Clarice Dean for VP, Eileen McKyton for secretary, and Diana Smith for treasurer.

We welcomed Cherie Lin to our

meeting. We were happy to have Michael Cafferty, Rita McGahey, Mickey Matthews, Tim Harvey and Bob as well. We hope you will join us in the future.

We were glad to hear that Eileen McKyton was out of the hospital and doing better. We send a heartfelt "get well" to Scotty Nogaim and hope she is on the mend. It was good to see Jean Gordon at the meeting looking so well after her recent surgery, and it was a delight to have Dan Hawley back with us at the greeting desk. Anybody notice how terrific Peggy Pierce looks after her successful surgery? We hope Leslie Doyle is feeling better, too. Finally, on a happy note, congratulations to Karen Fields on her retirement. You are going to have fun!

We thank Bill Whaley, Terry Wilsey, Philip Chen and John and Judie Tuthill for the delicious October feast. What a great job you all did!

Miles Hoffman and Gustave Mattiello are so enthusiastic about the library that it is a real pleasure to have them. Take out some books. It's free. Our new book for October was *MINIATURE ORCHIDS* by Stephen Frowine, the author of *ORCHIDS FOR DUMMIES*. Stephen will be speaking to us in March about miniature orchids.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER 19-21 Orchid Show at
Huntington Gardens

http://www.orchidssc.org/osscc_at_the_southland_orchid_show.htm

OCTOBER 20 9:30 am Nevada State
Garden Club Fall Meeting
Myra Glassman and Terry Wilsey
represent us

OCTOBER 27-28 NEVADA GARDEN
FLOWER SHOW 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Our member Alana Sullivan is running
the show. We will have a big display on
the stage with a "golden theme." Shelly
North, artist extraordinaire, is planning
our exhibit. We need your help and your
plants. We will also have an educational
display on Nevada native orchids.

SETUP-Friday, October 26th 4 pm
Garden Club So far Carol, Diana, Clarice,
Eileen, Shelly and Angel Escobar have
volunteered. We need YOU and your
plants. PLEASE. If you can't bring down
your blooming beauty, you can drop it
off at my house and I will bring it down
(254-4168).

JUDGING- 8:45 AM Saturday, Oct 27th
There will be ribbon judging (You can win
LOTS). Tex and Gidget will be our
judges and Miles will be our clerk.

SHOW-Saturday, Oct 27th 12-4
Karen Fields and Mike Hoffman will be
our ambassadors.

Sunday Oct 28th 10-1 Pat Holland will be
our ambassador in the morning and Myra
Lee Glassman will do it in the afternoon
from 1-4.

Thanks to all of you kind people. Plants
can be picked up on Sunday after 4 pm.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007 7:30
PM THE SEX LIFE OF ORCHIDS
FREE LECTURE AS PART OF THE
BARRICK LECTURE SERIES CAROL

SIEGEL (The auditorium is located at the Barrick
Museum which is coming from the WEST on
Harmon...from say Paradise, Harmon dead ends in
the parking lot of the museum)

Thanks to Paula Garrett for
arranging this and for making the
handout included in the newsletter.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2007
Greenhouse tour 1pm ONE HOUR
EARLIER THAN USUAL

Thanks to Mike Levin, Clarice Dean
and Shelly North for opening their
homes and greenhouses. The meeting
will be at Clarice's house and Shelly
will serve food! Thanks to Clarice for
making the beautiful sheet on the
tour with maps that follows.

Everyone knows that Leslie is the editor
of the Silver State Gardener, a first-
rate gardening publication. It is available
for the ridiculously low price of \$5 a
year (a YEAR...) You can pay for a
subscription by sending \$5 (\$5!!!!) to
Leslie Doyle 5910 Sheila Avenue Las
Vegas, NV 89108. If you already have a
subscription, you can renew it at our
meeting or just add \$5 to your club
membership renewal in December.

Following the newsletter is an article I
wrote on salep (HOT SALEP AND
FROZEN VIAGRA) which will be
published in Orchid Digest.
Keep blooming! Love, Carol

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT
CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY
DIANA SMITH-TREASURER
Miles Hoffman- "The Recruiter"
Paula Garrett- University Liaison
Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless, Marsha
Hawley - Membership Hospitality Chairmen
Eileen McKyton/DanHawley-Welcome Desk
Lillian Patterson,Cathy Loftfield-
Photographer /Historian
TonyBillitere, Sharon and Uwe Proehl,
Myra Glassman, Ed McCormick- Raffle
Angels
Marsha Hawley- Fund Raising Chairlady

Leslie Doyle,Shelly North and Eileen
McKyton- Special Events
Jeri Lee, Myra Glassman, and Gail
Harris- Nevada State Garden Club
Representative
AlexMcKyton-BuildingChairmen&Webmaster
Tex &Gidget Severance and Mike Levin-
Show and Tell Gurus and Judging Chairmen
Scotty Nogaim- Election & Raffle Lady
Terry Wilsey- Club Travel Agent
Miles Hoffman- Library Chairman
Clarice Dean-Species of the Month
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COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Our meetings are held at the Nevada Garden Club Building at Twin Lakes and Washington between Valley View and Rancho at the western edge of Lorenzi Park. The meeting starts at 2, but I open the building at 1 for shopping.

November 4, 2007	Greenhouse Tour- Homes of the Deans, Shelly North and Mike Levin
December 2, 2007	Eighth Annual Holiday Party Carol's house
January 6, 2008	Jim Comstock, "3D Photos of Orchids"
February 3, 2008	Jason Fischer, Orchids Limited, "Growing Orchids From Seed"
March 2, 2008	Steve Frowine, "Miniature Orchids"
April 6, 2008	Mike Glikbarg, "Everything You Wanted to About Orchids"
May 4, 2008	Ron Parsons, "Dendrobium"
June 1, 2008	Mike Blietz, Exotic Orchids of Maui, "The World of Cattleya"
July 13, 2008	"Fifteen Minute Solution- Another Culture Day"
August 3, 2008	Barbecue
September 7, 2008	Fred Clarke, "The Weird World of Bulbophyllum"
October 5, 2008	Greenhouse Tour
November 2, 2008	Martin Motes, (THE Vanda Expert), "Vandas"
December 7, 2008	Ninth Annual Holiday Party

Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society

Greenhouse Tour – November 4, 2007 – 1:00pm

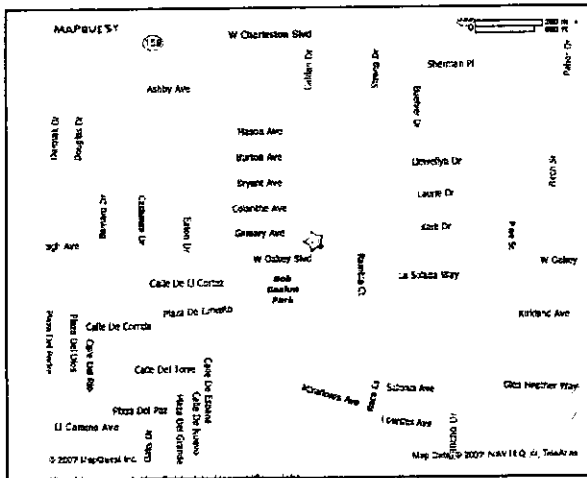


The annual greenhouse tour will take place on our normal meeting day, Sunday, November 4, 2007; however, to accommodate travel time involved, the tour will start at 1:00pm, instead of our normal meeting time of 2:00pm.

You will be visiting the greenhouses and growing areas of Mike Levin, Dennis and Clarice Dean and Shelly North. Mike's home is located near Oakey north of Rancho, the Dean's and Shelly are located in the southwest part of town. Maps and directions are included below. The timeline is provided only as a guide to help keep the tour on a schedule and to assist those that may choose not to visit each greenhouse, but pick one or perhaps, two greenhouses listed. Remember, the times listed are approximate. For more information – please call me. Thanks, Clarice, 876-2729 or 279-9238

- 1) **1pm - Mike Levin** – 2808 Gilmary, Las Vegas, NV, 89102. You may park in the driveway or on the street. Please use the side gate to access the greenhouse avoiding passage though the house. Members will need to navigate about 15 feet of flagstone, then a grass yard and a narrow cement patio by a pool in order to get into the greenhouse. Please limit the number of people in the greenhouse to 2 or 3 at a time as space is limited and please no purses or sacks as they tend to knock things over. Members may mingle in the front or in the yard while waiting a turn for the greenhouse – you may need to stand while you are waiting. There is no space available for wheelchairs or canes. Remember the floors and area can be slippery! Mike will confine the dogs and birds to the house and asks that members do not enter the house. His new pup can swiftly get out if given the opportunity. Due to this fact there will not be any bathroom access. Thanks for your understanding. If you complete the tour here early, you may continue to the next stop if you like.
- 2) **2 pm - Dennis and Clarice Dean** – 5540 Santa Margarita St., Las Vegas, NV, 89118, 876-2729 or 279-9238 cell. You may park in the vacant lot next to house, on the street, in front of the house or in the back by the garage if you need handicap access – please call and let me know if you need to park in back though. You can access the backyard though the side gate on the south side of the house or walk though the double gates located on the north side of the property. Most of the walking will be on cement walkways that are easy to navigate. We will kennel our dogs and you can go into the house to use the bathroom if the need arises. We will have plenty of chairs and some tables and we'll provide drinks and light appetizers. The orchid society business meeting will be at this location.
- 3) **3:15 pm - Shelly North** – 6175 W. Oquendo Rd., Las Vegas, NV, 89118, 889-6190. You may park in the lot next to the fence; the front gate will be open. Shelly will be serving food, tables and chairs will be available with plenty of space in the yard for everyone.





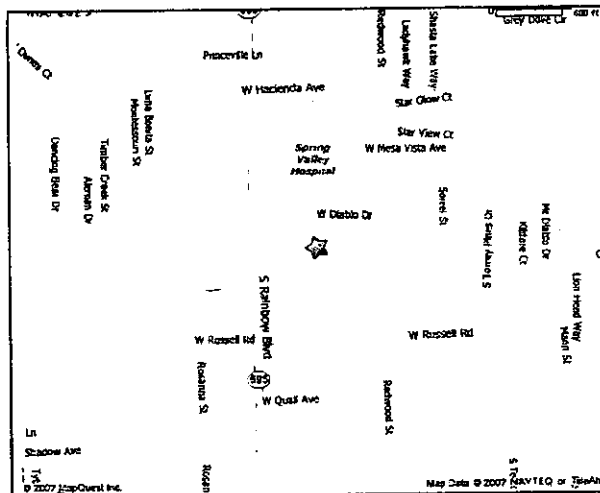
Mike Levin
2808 Gilmary



From Oakey and Rancho: Take Oakey west 0.3 miles to Cahlan Dr. turn right then left onto Gilmary.

OR

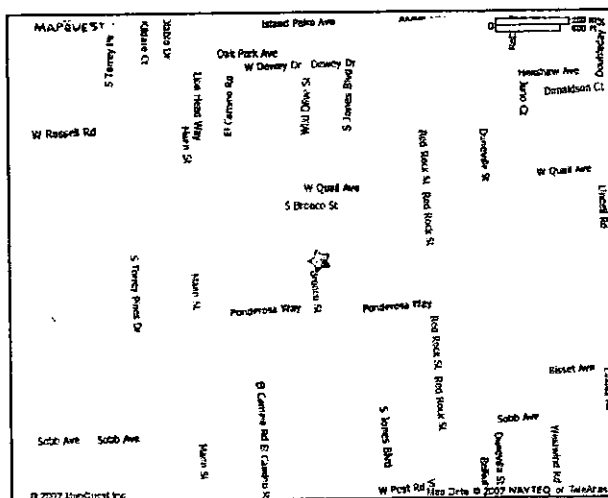
From W. Charleston and Valley View: Take Charleston east 0.7 miles to Cahlan Dr. turn right, go 0.4 miles to Gilmary turn right.



Dennis and Clarice Dean
5540 Santa Margarita

Directions to 5540 Santa Margarita from Mike's— 8 miles

- 1: Go west for 0.2 miles to Campbell—turn left
 - 2: go 0.1 miles turn right onto Oakey
 - 3: go 3 miles to Rainbow – turn left
 - 4: go 5 miles to Diablo – turn left
 - 5: go 0.1 miles turn right onto Santa Margarita
- Light green house on the left



Shelly North
6175 Oquendo Rd.

Directions to 6175 Oquendo Rd. From the Dean's— 1.5 miles

- 1: turn right onto Diablo
 - 2: turn left onto Redwood
 - 3: turn right onto Hacienda
 - 4: turn right onto Jones
 - 5: turn right onto Oquendo
- House is located just west of Jones on Oquendo on south side of street – look for the green fence

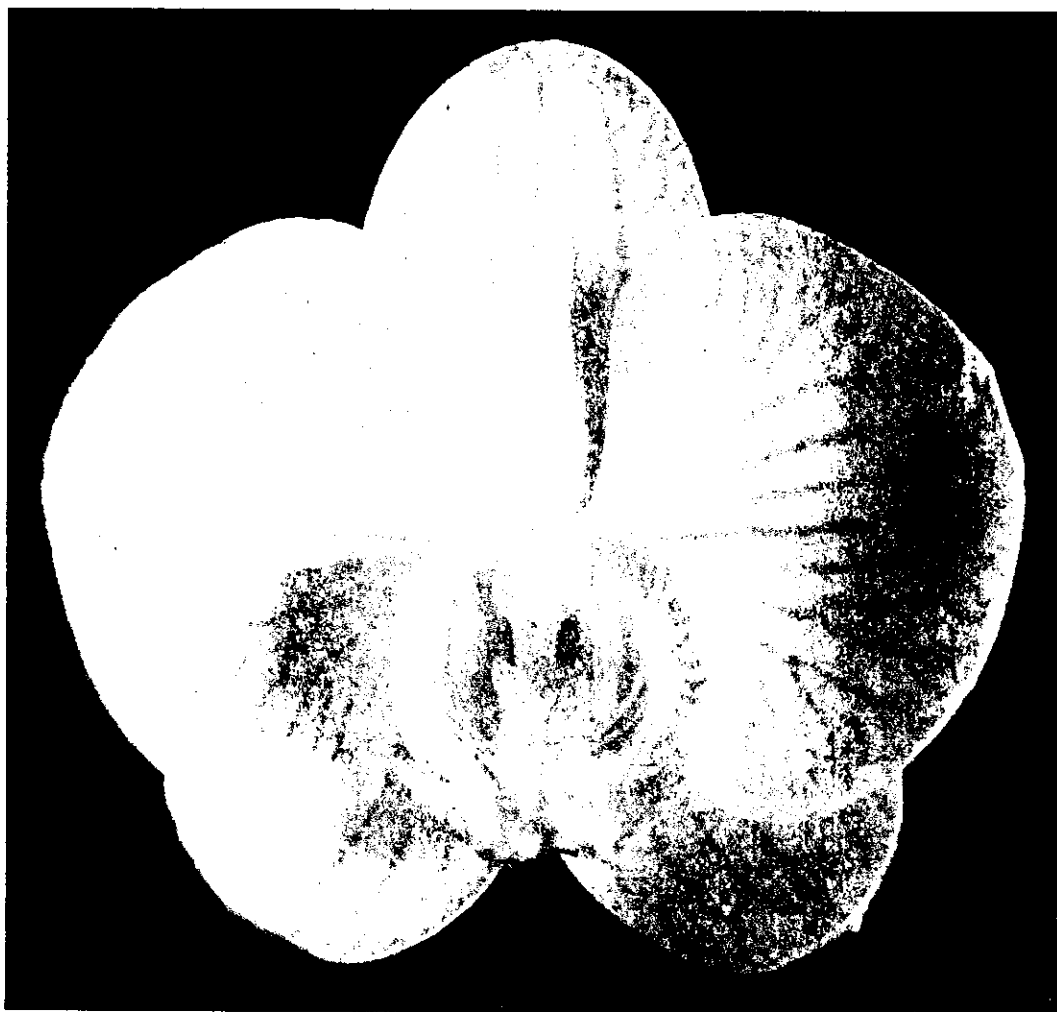


The Sex Life of Orchids

Thursday, November 01, 2007 - 7:30pm - Barrick Museum
Auditorium - UNLV

Carol Siegel, President, Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society

This presentation will introduce you to the fascinating world of orchid pollination and orchid pollinators. It tells the amazing story of how orchids will stop at nothing to get pollinated. They will lie. They will cheat. They will promise and not deliver. (And if they do deliver, they will give as little as possible.) This amusing and informative talk shows the ways in which orchids use color, pattern, movement, fragrance, traps, sexual mimicry, and outright lies to lure pollinators. (Co-sponsored by The Arboretum at UNLV)



Hot Salep and Frozen Viagra

Carol Siegel

Move over, Viagra. Move over, Baskin Robbins. Turkey's got an orchid ice cream called salep that comes in 32 flavors. It not only improves your sex life but also prevents cholera and tuberculosis, cures bronchitis and diarrhea, stops hands and feet from shaking and facilitates childbirth. You can jump rope with it, and you eat it with a knife and fork. Getting ready for a romantic night out? Two scoops, please.

In Greece in the 1960's, the local rock band Aphrodite noted on their album sleeve, "This album was recorded under the influence of sahlep." Outrage followed as many thought it was a kind of illegal drug. It is really a very ancient orchid food and drink available worldwide and known to have some very useful side effects.

WHAT IS SALEP?

Salep refers the paired, underground tubers found in several orchid genera including *Orchis*, *Ophrys*, and *Eulophia*. The name "salep" comes from the Arabic expression "hasyu al-tha lab" and the Hebrew "sakhlav" which mean "fox testicles." The name is a graphic description of the shape of the orchid roots, which are dried and ground into a powdery flour, mixed with milk and sugar, and used in a very popular hot drink and an even more popular ice cream, both called "salep," too. Eric Hansen went to Turkey in search of orchid ice cream and reported:

The word salep comes from the Arabic sahlav, which means "testicles of the fox." Ali showed me a handful of the dried tubers, and although I have never had the opportunity to examine a fox that closely, the paired, ovoid spheres did bear a striking resemblance to that part of the male anatomy.

SALEP ROCKS THE ANCIENT WORLD

How did salep get its reputation as an ancient Viagra? In 50 AD, the Greek writer Dioscorides wrote an early medical text called "The Doctrine of Signatures." He said that if something looked like a body part, it was probably good for curing that body part. Because of what body part these orchid roots looked like, they were used for thousands of years throughout the world to cure venereal disease, promote fertility, increase male performance, and help with childbirth. The English word "orchid" means

"testicle" in Latin and Greek. Early orchids were valued as much for their aftereffects as for their beauty.

With Dioscorides' endorsement, salep use soared. Ancient Romans used ground orchid bulbs to make aphrodisiac drinks called "satyrion" or "priapiscus." The orchid plants were thought to be the food of the Satyrs, which incited them to passion and excess. Of salep, Paracelsus, the famous toxicologist wrote, "Behold the Satyrion root. Is it not formed like the male private parts? Accordingly, magic discovered it and revealed that it can restore a man's virility and passion."

Salep has always been popular in Turkey, too. After the Turks converted to Islam, alcoholic beverages like wine and kimiz were prohibited, and non-alcoholic beverages made from maize, grape juice or salep took their place. Sira from grapes became the preferred drink of summer, and hot salep became the preferred drink of winter. Also known as cayırotu or cemcicegi, it was thought even then to be good for diarrhea, colds, coughs, and the improvement of virility and appetite. Salep ice cream has been made in East Anatolia in Turkey since at least the 15th century.

In Ottoman times, salep was an ingredients in invigorating pastes made for the sultan's amorous harem visits along with such spices as ginger, coriander, coconut and aniseed. In winter, salep made with milk was sold by street vendors who kept it warm in large copper jugs on a brazier. Clients warmed their hands by the brazier and drank large cups of salep in mugs without handles. Today, salep is still sold by street vendors outside football games in Turkey. It is the most popular hot drink at ski resorts and is found on elegant menus at Ramadan in winter.

Salep was known outside the Middle East as well. In England, salep, known as "saloop," was sold in stalls in the streets of London before tea and coffee became popular. It was thought that the best English salep came from Oxfordshire, but most orchid tubers were imported from the East. Charles Lamb, 18th century English poet and essayist, refers to a "Salopian shop" on Fleet Street and adds that a basin of it at three-halfpence accompanied by a slice of bread and butter at half-penny was an ideal breakfast for a chimney sweep. There is even a Saloop Street in London.

Nicholas Culpeper highlighted salep's usefulness in 1814 in his Culpeper's Complete Herbal and English Physician. He said that the orchid roots that made up salep were called "stones", a street name for testicles- dog stones, goat stones, fool stones, or fox stones. Culpeper attests to their amorous uses:

They are hot and moist in operation, under the dominion of Dame Venus, and provoke lust exceedingly, which they say, the dry and withered roots restrain. They are held to kill worms in children; as also, being bruised and applied to the place, to heal the king's evil (Scrofula or TB of the neck which kings were thought to cure with a gold coin).

Witches were long thought to use the tubers in their love potions, the fresh big tubers used to bring true love and the withered tubers to check unwanted or wrong passions. In *Orchis* orchids, one of the roots gets larger to store food for the next season. The other is used that season for growth and becomes more withered. The large root is collected for its medical and aphrodisiac properties. The other withered one can restrain passion and has the opposite effect.

Salep was considered so nutritious that it was used in Europe and Asia as a foodstuff. Sailors brought it along for long trips since it was thought that one ounce of salep flour mixed with two quarts of boiling water was enough to sustain a man for a day if provisions fell short. It has long been fed to infants and invalids when boiled and flavored with sugar, milk, ginger, cloves, saffron chips or cinnamon.

ICE CREAM AND ORCHID EXTINCTION

How do you make salep? Orchid tubers are often collected at the close of summer when seed-vessels are fully formed as the next year's tubers are then full and fleshy and full of starch. Shriveled tubers are thrown out. Others collect the tubers when the plant is still in flower in spring.

The plump tubers are washed and then immersed for a short time in boiling water. The scalding destroys their vitality and removes the bitterness of the fresh state. The outer skins are then rubbed off, and the tubers are dried in the sun for several days or in an oven for ten minutes. Their milky appearance then becomes translucent and horny. Dried tubers can be stored for as long as desired, and the damp does not affect them. They are often ground to a yellow powder. Because true salep is expensive, buyers must

beware that the powder has not been cut with inexpensive ingredients like cornstarch or mastic powder. Strings of dried orchid tuber are sold to assure authenticity of the product. The best quality is known as "salepi Maras," comes from the high mountains, and sells for \$20 a pound.

For one kilogram of dried salep, about 1000 orchids are needed. The leading salep ice cream maker in Istanbul uses three tons of salep or 12 million orchid plants a year. Although this is destroying the orchid populations, he says he has no plans to cut back:

Ice cream has been made here since the time of the Ottoman farmers. It has always been special because the roots of wild orchids are used.

The BBC reported in 2003 that several rare orchid species found in Turkey face extinction because of the Turkish love of ice cream. So popular is that ice cream that parts of Istanbul where it is made and sold are called "the ice cream district" and jam up with traffic.

"The orchids in Turkey are under very serious threat," botanist Ozdemir Ozhatay of Istanbul University told BBC World Service's Outlook program.

"For this reason, it is forbidden to export- but they are still using it in Turkey for the ice cream."

Local shepherds, traditional pickers of the orchids, says the orchids are in steep decline in the country. The flowers are more difficult to find as more and more ice cream producers use them, and you have to go higher and higher in the mountains to find them.

JUMPING ROPE WITH SALEPLI DONDURMA

"Dondurma" is the Turkish word for ice cream, and "salepli dondurma" is the name for the orchid-based treat. Salep dealers say the most valuable of the dried tubers for ice cream are ones that dry to the translucent yellow color of alabaster. The translucence means there is a more complex flavor and more mucilage, the glue-like substance similar to cellulose that makes up 40-50% of salep flour. Good salep ice cream is so firm it has to be eaten with a knife and fork. Eric Hansen relates that in the ice cream factory office, there is a framed picture of a boy jumping rope with a length of orchid ice cream. He says it is a "dessert to be reckoned with." In nature, the mucilage

