

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005 2 PM

AUGUST 7, 2005 picnic 12:30 pm

THE JULY MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE USUAL PLACE, THE NEVADA GARDEN CLUB BUILDING, WASHINGTON AND TWIN LAKES. THE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN AT 1PM. PICNIC IN AUGUST WILL BE HELD IN MT. CHARLESTON.

DIRECTIONS FOR ALL THE NEW PEOPLE-If you begin at Decatur and Sahara, go north on Decatur, make a right (E) on Washington, pass Valley View a few blocks, and make a right on Twin Lakes. The slump-stone building will be immediately on your left. If you get to Rancho, you have gone too far. The building is on the western edge of Lorenzi park.

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT

CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT

EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY

DIANA SMITH- TREASURER

AND...

Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless, Marsha Hawley - Membership Hospitality Chairmen

Eileen McKyton and Dan Hawley- Welcome Desk

Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian

Dan Mumau and Tony Billitere- Raffle Chairmen

Phyllis Bond, Leslie Doyle, Shelly North and Eileen McKyton- Special Events Chairmen

Jeri Lee and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison

Alex McKyton -Building Chairmen and Webmaster

Tex Severance and Mike Levin- Show and Tell Gurus

Tex and Gidget Severance- Judging Chairmen

Scotty Nogaim- Election Chairman, Raffle Lady

Steve Ninemire Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian

Clarice Dean- Trip Chairman

John Haydukavitch-Video Chief

Shelly North-Classy Club Apparel Chairlady

July 10, 2005

SECOND SUNDAY Sheldon Takasaki,
Carmela's Orchids, "Cattleyas"

August 7, 2005

Barbecue Eldine Stevens' home

September 11, 2005 Doug Conkin, "Planning and Developing An

Orchid Collection"

October 2, 2005	Greenhouse Tour Homes of Clarice & Dennis Dean, Mike Lawless & Dan Mumau
November 6, 2005	"The Adventures of Dennis D'Allesandro in Bolivia"
December 4, 2005	Sixth Annual Holiday Party
January 8, 2006	Jason Fischer, "Orchids of Japan"
February 5, 2006	Jim Hamilton, Petite Plaisance Nursery, "Growing Orchids Naturally"
March 5, 2006	Doug Conkin, "Integrated Pest Management"
April 2, 2006	John Salventi, "How to Grow Award Winning Plants"
May 7, 2006	Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids, "Tiny Treasures" (the Pleurothallidinae)
June 4, 2006	Jim Comstock "3-D Orchid Photos"
July 9, 2006	Eric Christensen
August 6, 2006	Barbecue in Mt. Charleston
September 10, 2006	Marni Turkel, "How to Grow Orchids"
October 1, 2006	Chuck Acker
November 5, 2006	Bill Bergstrom, "The Orchids of Mexico"
December 3, 2006	Seventh Annual Holiday Party

It was another wonderful day as the friendly and enthusiastic members of our club gathered once more for fun, food, flowers and fellowship. We welcomed new members Pearl Anton and Clemen Borg and guests Karen Fields, Roland & Lori Stoddard, Kevin Pearson, Mary Jennings, and Lynette Ramey. We now have a record 115 members. This keeps up, and we'll have to meet at the Silver Bowl...

All our love and get-well wishes have turned the meeting into Lourdes, and we were glad to see Scotty Nogaim, Jean Gordon, and Eldine Stevens back with us again, all recovered and looking good. We

send our condolences to Kenneth Snauwaert on the loss of his beloved mother whom he lovingly cared for.

Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids (www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com) wowed us with a dynamite power point presentation on "Catasetum, Cycnoches, and Mormodes." These wonderful plants with their weird flowers which bloom on dead-looking pseudobulbs, are an easy-to-grow and magnificent addition to any collection. We thank Fred for pitching in at the last moment when our speaker cancelled, for doing such a great talk, and for selling wonderful plants.

Clarice Dean presented our Species of the Month, *Cycnoches warscewiczii*. *Cycnoches*, one of the fragrant swan orchid species, grows in the hot lowlands from Mexico, Central America, and into the Amazon Basin. The club-shaped pseudobulbs can grow to more than 20 inches and the flowers are gorgeous. "*Cycnoches*" means "swan's neck" because the flower resembles the body of a swan. During flower development, the leaves begin to fall, and there is a dormant winter rest during which very little water is given.

Our raffle was a big success, and we all went home happy. We thank Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless, and Tony Billitere for picking up and shlepping in the raffle plants kindly donated by the Mirage, Treasure Island, and English Garden Florists. Tony tells us that the Wynn might make winners out of us by donating more plants to us. When we take home a raffle plant, we are saving a plant that might not make it without our good care.

If I do say so myself, the Mediterranean feast prepared by Clarice Dean, Diana Smith, Eileen McKyton and me, was a great success. We thank Evan Hyde, Marilyn Short, Anne Murphy, and Kelly Torres in

advance for next month's snacks. Not everyone makes his orchid bloom, but we all make great food.

Our July speaker, Sheldon Takasaki, owner of Carmela's Orchids, will speak to us on everyone's favorite orchid, the cattleya. Alex and Eileen McKyton, friends of Sheldon from their years in Hawaii, will graciously host the speaker in their home. Thanks so much to your both. Sheldon will sell his magnificent and reasonably-priced orchids at the meeting, too.

I have arranged a field trip for our club to Panaca with Jim Coyner to search for *Spiranthes diluvialis*, which has not been seen since 1926. This is the 13th Nevada native orchid, and there is great interest in whether it still is found in our state. It is an opportunity for us to contribute to orchid conservation and to have lots of fun together. Jim, a specialist in this orchid, will meet us in Panaca, Nevada (which is 150 miles from here) on the morning of Saturday, July 30th at 10 a.m. He will lead us in our search, and we will return that evening. You may volunteer to come up with us at our July meeting or call me at 254-4168 or email at growlove@cox.net. We will carpool up. Bring lunch, water, a hat and comfortable walking shoes. So far, 11 people have signed up. Those on the west side of town can come to my house for breakfast at 7am. If you are on the east side of town, Terry Wilsey has said that folks can meet at his house (731-2114).

In August, we will be having our annual barbecue at the gracious home of Eldine Stevens in Mt. Charleston. Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless, Owners of A Catered Affair, have graciously agreed to do the catering. The club pays for meats and drinks, and each of us brings a dish for 10-12 people- dessert, casserole, side dish, or the like. It is a purely social, fun event in the COOL mountains. Included with the newsletter, you will find a map and directions to Eldine's house. SAVE

THE MAP AND DIRECTIONS SINCE THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY.

In October, we will be having a tour of the greenhouses of Clarice and Dennis Dean and of Mike Lawless and Dan Mumau. It is really helpful to find out how other people grow and these two greenhouses will give you lots of ideas on what to do.

Take a look at the speaker schedule at the beginning of the newsletter. It is sensational!! We have a great couple of years planned. We actually have some speakers that have had to be given dates in 2007—AND THEY ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED!! Is it the lure of our terrific club- or just Las Vegas. Who knows!! Who cares!! As long as we get the best...

On July 8-10, Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Orchid Fair will be held at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara., Ca. Check out the event at www.orchidfair.com. Admission is free. Take your wallet and your walking shoes.

At the end of the newsletter, there is a message from Steve Ninemire, our club librarian, on our library. I donated books on orchid growing for dummies (not us!), catasetum and vanilla. Check it out...and CHECK IT OUT!

Also, we are lucky enough to have an article by our very own Diana Smith, the smart and giving lady who is the Queen of Coelogyne called, appropriately, "In Praise of Coelogyne." It is a magnificent, well-written article that you will really enjoy. Thanks, Diana!!

Stay cool... keep blooming... Love, Carol 254-4168 growlove@cox.net

NOTES ON THE LIBRARY

BY STEVE NINEMIRE

I will be making a chart showing the different color categories of the books so it will be easier to understand what each category represents. I will hang this on the door of the library so that it is easy to find. You will see that the orange band on books is for beginning level, pink is for intermediate and advanced, yellow is for general garden books, green is for books on pest control and white is for miscellaneous. The written index of the collection will now be hanging on the door (providing the magnets I've just bought will hold it.) Also there will be indexes for the newsletters and magazines. These indexes are also on our website at glvos.com.

Please look into checking out magazines. We have a good stock of both **Orchids** and **Orchid Digest**. If you are new to orchids this is a good way to get to know about orchid culture. Sometimes at the end of the article there will be a reference to a previous article in a back issue; check the index- we may have it. Some members have been filling in the blanks (thank you) so don't despair if you don't find it. I hope to catch up with the new additions this month. We are running out of room in our back closet so I am probably going to only store the last 10 years on site and the rest at home. Just tell me what need from the archive, and I will bring to the next meeting. You may contact me 384-6860 or ninemi@aol.com. Happy exploring!

IN PRAISE OF COELOGYNE

By Diana Smith

Personally, I don't think an article like this is necessary for the members of our club. Of course you have all looked at a coelogyne flower and, by virtue of your discriminating taste and superior understanding, instantly recognized it as the Queen of Orchids. Duh!

That reaction is well known in the orchid world, and has considerable historical precedent. John Lindley named and described the genus in 1821. It quickly became one of the most widely cultivated genera and has continued as such. Even today, most collectors and hobbyists have at least one. In part, this is because the plants are survivors. Mostly, it is because the flowers are visual treats.

ARE THEY PAINTED?

Coelogyne flowers are typically 1-to-3 inches wide in the colors of beige, green, yellow or white. The flower form is the standard, cattleya-like, star-to-rounded shape, symmetrical, with three distinct sepals, two petals and a large lip. The flowers on a spike can open simultaneously but are often sequential bloomers, meaning that there are only one or two open at a time. That doesn't sound like anything to rhapsodize about... until you see them.

The sepals and petals seem to be composed of diamond dust; they sparkle in the sunlight. The prominent, interesting lip can be fringed, hairy, veined, keeled, warty, ridged, frilly, and/or look like the underside of a starfish. Color markings vary from softly-tinted to saturated, from a fine picotee edging to covering the entire lip,

from delicately diffused to patterns so distinctly placed they appear to be painted on by flower fairies.

Coelogynes are so easy to care for, too. I have very little trouble with bugs or slugs on them. I don't think they taste very good! They seem to need light feeding on a regular basis; I do $\frac{1}{4}$ strength every week and a flush with no food once a month.

Add to these characteristics the tendency toward having a fragrance. My first coelogyne, (you know, the one that got me hooked) *C. nitida*, smelled of vanilla coconut. Others are musky, sweet, lemony, "green", violet-like, and a few (very few, luckily) just plain stink. Most are fragrant during the day.

JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

The genus *Coelogyne* is made up of 190 species plus several subspecies and varieties. They are found in India, east into Burma, Thailand, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo, New Guinea and the islands of the south Pacific.

They are mostly epiphytic (tree-hugging), but many are lithophytic (rock-loving) and a few are terrestrial (afraid of heights). The roots are slender and do not take well to repotting, which is why mine are often mounted, in baskets or potted in Aussie Gold.

The leaves generally stay on longer than one growing season but do drop off after two or three years. They are typically stiff and thin (not used for water storage), may be pleated and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. All coelogyne species have pseudobulbs. These can grow in clumps very close together, or sprawl out on thin rhizomes up to 10 inches apart. The clumpy ones make very attractive house plants. The sprawling ones may be useful as camouflaged ankle snares.

The name "*coelogyne*" comes from the Greek "koilos" (hollow) and "gyne" (female), referring to the deep stigmatic cavity in the column. From this we can derive the single correct way to pronounce it: koi-lo-GUY-nee. Well, since I never took Greek and I always wondered

why there was a guy in gyne, I pronounce it see-LODGE-eh-nee. So sue me.

I'm in good company, however. Even the phylogenists (Yes, I can write phylogenists in a family publication. It means the people who study the evolution and classification of organisms) don't know what to call them. Specific species have been classified under the genera *Pholidota*, *Broughtonia*, *Pleione*, *Chelonistele*, *Ptychogyne*, *Cephalanthera*, *Acanthoglossum*, *Bulborchis*, *Gomphostylis*, *Hologyne*, *Cymbidium*, *Chelonanthera*, and *Encyclia*. The list of synonyms for the "accepted" scientific names is staggering.

But before you start wondering what those bubble-headed scientists were doing, here's why: many species of coelogyne come from areas that have vast numbers of endemic species, meaning they are found in only one or two places on Earth. Until recently these areas were remote or featured natives that would invite you to dinner and seat you in the cooking pot along with your collected orchids. Your drawings and written descriptions sure were helpful as dry kindling, thank you. Therefore, few plant specimens and writings were available for the scientists to study. Unfamiliar ones were assumed to be new species and given new names. (I also think Lindley and Professor Reichenbach had a naming competition goin' on.) When the oops! was discovered, the original name was reinstated, but not all orchidists were informed or chose to conform. All this does make collecting coelogyne species interesting.

By the way, there are very few hybrids out there, mostly because the species are fairly consistent in size, shape and color, and the plants are choosy about their mates. Many authors say there is a lot to be done in hybridizing with the genus.

THAT'S A BIG MOMMA

One of the characteristics that have earned coelogyne a following is that they frequently make large and lovely specimen plants. One *C. cristata* appeared regularly at shows in Great Britain and invariably won Best-of-Show, to the disappointment of the other entrants. It

required a forklift to place and remove from the show room, and could only be transported in a full-sized van.

In my experience, *Coelogynes* are regular bloomers, even without superlative conditions. Last year I received a gift of a huge, potted *C. dayana* from my best friend. I couldn't keep it in my greenhouse during the winter because I had no room for it, so I put it in my house in front of a shaded south-facing French door. It bloomed-one 30" spike of cream flowers with brown "tuxedo-shirt frills" on the lip.

My potted *C. speciosa* was in bloom for more than 250 days straight. It took a short (1 month) break, then went into bloom again for another extended period.

No matter where I put them in my greenhouse, my cork-mounted *C. fimbriata* and *ovalis* bloom every spring with regularity.

SO, HOW DO YOU DO IT?

There are almost as many expert views on cultivation of coelogyne as there are authors. Some claim they need bright light; others that they need almost total shade. Some tell us to keep the temperatures low (50 degrees F. in the winter at night); others that they need to stay above 70 degrees F. at all times. Some say to stop watering totally after growth is finished; others say leave them slightly dryer during the winter. (I find they generally like to stay moist. Go figure.)

Part of this inconsistency is because some species are found at sea level and others at the tops of tropical mountains, even into the Tibetan Himalayas. They are found in all levels of the tropical evergreen rainforest, from the ground to the emergent and canopy layer. Coming from such a wide variety of habitats and conditions there will be discrepancies between the needs of different species. So, actually, all those experts are right.

Our GLVOS library has a book, *THE GENUS COELOGYNE, A SYNOPSIS* by Dudley Clayton, which has been very helpful to me. It

describes each species and explains where it comes from. Although it is fairly technical, his method of describing the altitude and habitat for each species imposes some structure on the confusion.

AARGH!

Well, the good news is, there is a coelogyne out there for you! Many of them can flower as potted house plants with supplemented humidity (a minimum of 40%). Take a survey of the temperatures and light exposures you can provide. Following is a list of species with a very abbreviated culture guide. Assume partial shade unless otherwise noted. Temperatures are in degrees F., humidity around 40% minimum.

C. asperata - bright light, 75 to 85

corymbosa - 50 to 60

cristata - 50 to 60

cumingii - 68 to 85

flexuosa - 75 to 85

lawrenceana - 58 to 85

mayeriana - 75 to 85

merrillii - 75 to 85

mooreana - 58 to 75

nitida - 50 to 75 (syn *C. ochracea*)

pandurata - 75 to 85 (gets huge!)

rochussenii - 68 to 85

speciosa - 58 to 75

tomentosa - 58 to 85 (syn *C. dayana*, *C. massangeana*) (gets huge!)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1.The "Coelogyne" section of Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia at <http://orchidspecies.com/indexco.htm>
- 2.Clayton, Dudley, THE GENUS COELOGYNE, A SYNOPSIS, Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu, 2002.
- 3.Northen, Rebecca Tyson, HOME ORCHID GROWING, Third Edition, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1970.
- 4.Hawkes, Alex D., ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTIVATED ORCHIDS, Faber and Faber Limited, London, 1965.

