GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, April 6, 2003 2pm

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE USUAL PLACE, THE NEVADA GARDEN CLUB BUILDING,WASHINGTON AND TWIN LAKES, TWO BLOCKS EAST OF VALLEY VIEW.

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT
CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY
DIANA SMITH- TREASURER

AND...

Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless - Membership Hospitality Chairmen
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- Show and Tell Guru
Tex and Gidget Severance- Judging Chairmen
Scotty Nogaim- Election Chairman, Raffle Lady
Liz Leone- Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian
Clarice Dean- Trip Chairman
John Haydukavitch-Video Chief
Shelly North-Classy Club Apparel Chairlady

April 6, 2003	Matt Swift, Swift's Orchids,on "Equitant Oncidium"
May 4, 2003	Harry Phillips,Andy's Orchids,"Mounted Orchids"
June 1, 2003	Nick Burnett "Seven Ways to Kill an Orchid"
July 13, 2003	Virtual Greenhouse Tour NOTE THIS IS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF JULY THE FIRST IS JULY 4 WEEKEND
August 3, 2003	Annual Mt. Charleston BBQ
September 7, 2003	Karen Muir on "Brachy Paphs"

October 5, 2003	Charles Weckerle-Thrun on "Potting Different Orchid Genera"
November 2, 2003	Mike Glikbarg,Orchids of Los Osos,Topic to be Announced
December 7, 2003	Fourth Annual International Food Fest/Holiday Party.
January 4, 2004	John Salventi, Owner of Parkside Orchids, "A Cultural Review of the Genus Dendrobium with Suggestions for New Additions to Your Collection
February 1, 2004	Carol Siegel on "The Sex Life of Orchids"
April 4, 2004	Charles Rowland, "Orchid Photography"
May 2, 2004	Norman Fang, Owner of Norman's Orchids
June 6, 2004	Glen Decker, Owner Piping Rock Orchids, "Phragmipedium"
July11 , 2004	Virtual Greenhouse Tour SECOND SUNDAY
August 1, 2004	Barbecue
September 12, 2004	Mike Blitz, Exotic Orchids of Maui SECOND SUNDAY
November 7, 2004	The Further Exploits of Bill Bergstrom in Mexico
December 5, 2004	Fifth International Food Fest and Holiday Party

In my never-ending quest to entice speakers out our way, I have gotten "sure I will" commitments from Sue Fordyce to speak on cattleyas. I think we can get the best speakers if we ask EARLY!!

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On a balmy, sunny spring day, our club met in March for fun and friendship and had a wonderful meeting. Diana Smith did a professional slide presentation on insect beasties and disease nasties and taught us all a great deal. We are so grateful to her for this outstanding lecture. A book on insects and diseases was added to our library in her honor, and we gave her a Coelogyne mooreana as a thank you. We made over $100 on an enormous raffle table thanks to the supplies and plants of Dan Vong and the dozens of oncidiums from Simply Hawaii donated by Tony Billitere and Shelly North.(Joni and Mike Sielaff donated some phals as well.) Wonderful food was provided by Connie Yap, Steve Ninemire and Terry Wilsey, great friends of the club, and Tex, our guru, presented the show and tell orchids brought in by Diana Smith, Carol, Eileen McKyton, Clarice Dean, Mike and Joni Sielaff, Jeannie Salles and others. (Forgive me if I forgot you...) We were very pleased to welcome

Chad Nelson, to our group, a high school senior who is as fascinated by orchids as we are. Welcome, Chad.

Next month, Shelly North will treat us to the t-shirts, hats, golf shirts, and totes that she had made for the lucky members who ordered them. We are really excited about the gorgeous silk-screened orchids and club logo, a first for our group.

Our cookbook project to benefit the Crisis Intervention Center for the homeless raised $450. We will be presenting the money to a representative of the Center at the next meeting. We can be very proud of the fine, generous community spirit that our club has shown. Jeri Lee, our Cookbook Editor and inspiration, has done us proud, and we think she is just great!!

Your Board, Eileen, Diana, Clarice and I as well as Liz Leone had a productive meeting and discussed, among other things, involving the club in conservation projects. Dr Koopowitz discussed illegal activities that endanger species in the wild, and I wrote an article on what we can do to promote conservation in the last newsletter. We distributed pamphlets on conservation at the meeting and have ordered a conservation display for our show at the California Hotel in April. Clarice Dean, our fine vice-president, has volunteered to investigate projects that we as a club can do to contribute in this area. We had great fun at the meeting as Dan Vong "married" Clarice's Cattleya schoederi with mine. I have written a little article about this at the end of the newsletter. We hope to produce seed of this species to donate to the seed bank, a way to help conserve it,

At our next meeting on April 6, we will have the great pleasure of hosting Matt Swift, owner of Swift's Orchids, who will present a slide lecture on "Equitant Oncidium". We thank Clarice Dean for arranging this speaker. She is such an asset to the club! Matt will sell oncidiums which will be blooming in April and will provide plants for the raffle table. He has consented to do an oncidium potting demonstration, too, which should be of special interest to all our new members (We have lots!!) Chad, you can ask all your potting questions! Thanks, in advance, to Cheryl Owens, Chris Bowman, Anne Murphy, and Jeannie Salles for graciously providing food for the meeting.

On July 13 (second Sunday of month!!!) our Annual Virtual Greenhouse Tour will present the greenhouses, growing areas, bathrooms?, and the like where we manage to coax our orchids to bloom (or at least LIVE...) here in the desert. We encourage you to take part. It will be more interesting if small, creative ideas are presented. Grow on top of the toilet? In a windowsill? In a corner of the basement? Great!! We will need a roll of
35 mm slides by the May meeting. If you can't take them yourself, Lillian Patterson, our Master Photographer and Nice Lady, will take them for you!! E-mail me or call (254-4168) if you would like to take part. So far, we have the growing areas of Marilyn Worthington, Ester Choi, Clarice Dean, Steven Ninemire, ShellY North, Leslie Doyle, Eileen McKyton and Daniel Vong. Experience has shown me that we need at least a dozen promises to yield a really good slide show. Each grower will present his own area. I will put together all the slides for you. Do it!It's fun.

We had lots of activities in March. We thank Leslie Doyle for hosting the very successful Spring Plant Sale at her home. What would we do without her? We also are grateful to Clarice for overseeing the sale, to Daniel Vong for providing plants, to Tony Billitere and Shelly North for the donated oncidiums, and to CK Farms for providing annuals at cost for us to sell. The sale was a success due to the enthusiastic participation of members Mike and Joni Sielaff, Jeannie Salles, Grace Takahasi, Jeri Lee, Steven Ninemire, Marsha Hawley, Ann Shanklin and Carol Siegel.

We had fun, too, at the Spring in the Desert event at the Desert Garden Center where Diana Smith, Aaron Schave, Liz Leone, and John Haydukavitch got the word out to Las Vegas that, yes, you CAN grow orchids in the desert, and yes, the club is a lot of fun!! Thanks so much.

The Easter Show at the California Hotel, sponsored by the Torrance Cymbidium Society, will be held on April 18-20Shelly North and Phyllis Bond are planning a dynamite orchid display for our club, but we need YOUR blooming orchids. Bring your blooming orchids to the Ohana Room of the California Hotel after 4 pm on Thursday, April 17. If you have difficulty getting there, I will be happy to take your plants down to the hotel for you 254-4168 The display can only be a success if everyone helps!! Bring down your plant!! Help with the display!! It is great fun. We

will have AOS judging and display awards and member judging. You get to vote on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to determine who gets the wooden plaques. Come!!

PREPARING YOUR PLANTS FOR THE SHOW:GOING TO THE ORCHID BEAUTY PARLOR

Our plants need a beauty treatment before being entered for display or judging.

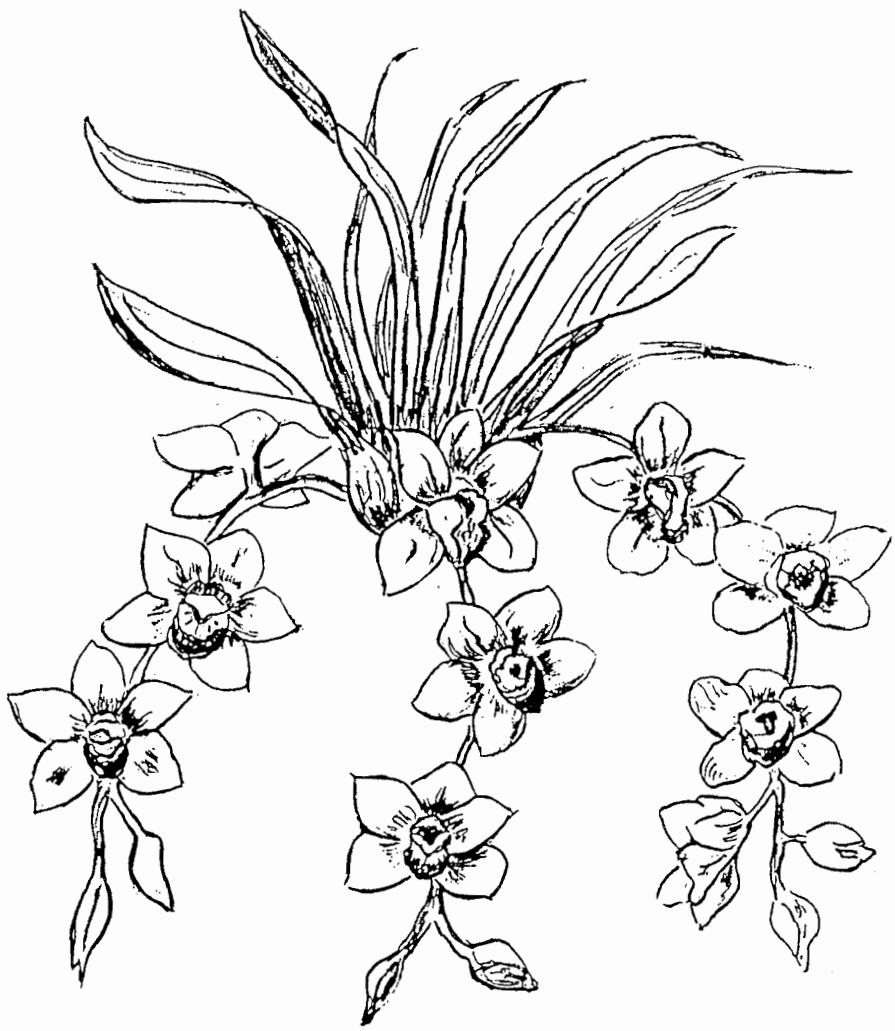
1. All dried sheaths should be removed so the clean pseudobulb is shown.
2. Old dried inflorescences should be cut off.
3. Leaves should be wiped with "fat" milk to clean off hard water spots and give a natural sheen to the leaves.
4. Stake the inflorescence so the flower present itself for best effect. Cut the stake so that it is not visible above the flower it is supporting. Hide any twist ties out of the way so they don't stick out.
5. Tuck any tags or labels down into the pot out of sight.
6. Top off the plant with a layer of fresh bark.
7. Clean the pots so they are tidy-looking.
8. Leave diseased or infested plants at home.
9. Water your plants thoroughly before judging. They will get thirsty.
10. Put your mailing address labels on bottoms of pots to make it easier to find after show OR put a colored sticker on the bottom or write on a piece of masking tape. Make a list of all the plants your have brought in. Keep it at home. Make a list of all important information that is on your tags in case a tag is lost.
11. Put TWO tags in each plant in case one falls out. Put one in at an angle.
12. Look up hybrids so you can list them correctly on the entry form if being entered for AOS judging. I can help if you don't know how to do it.
13. Don't forget to clean the stems of your orchids with a tissue.

Following the newsletter, there is an article by Cathy Bishop on pests called, "Beauty and the Beast", reprinted from DESERT MAGIC, a handbook of the Orchid Society of Southern Arizona, reprinted with their permission. There is also an article I have written called "My Big Fat Orchid Wedding" about our ""mating" experience, followed by an instructive article from the AOS website, www.orchidweb.org on "How to Set Seed on an Orchid". Stay safe and keep blooming. Love, Carol 254-4168 growlove@att.net

FREE

ORCHID SHOW AT THE CAL

OHANA ROOM



Need a corsage or flower arrangement for Easter?
We will have some. Come join us and have some fun.

SET-UP THURS APRIL 17 after 4 pm

Friday, April 18, 2003--1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 19, 2003--10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 20, 2003--10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Beauty and the Beast

Cathy Bishop

No matter what kind of plants one grows, there are always insects ready and willing to live with, or at least visit them. One of the benefits of orchids is that they are very tough plants. Many of the varieties have thick, leathery leaves which are more difficult for some insects to penetrate. But as with other plants - there is always a deterrent or insecticide to do away with any kind of pest. A keen sense of observation is necessary to find out who is bothering your babies before you start spraying.

Slugs and snails

These are the guys I hate the most because they sneak up at night and do large amounts of damage. Their munching is characterized by large round or irregular holes, either on edges or right in the middle of a leaf or flower. They seem to sense a big, beautiful Cattleya bud over all else and slither right up the stem to ruin a beautiful flower at any stage. They leave a slimy or wet looking trail everywhere they have been. To find them, wait until 10 PM, then go searching with a flashlight. You will soon see who is causing the damage. You can hand pick and dispose of those you see, and put down a bait/poison for their relatives. A flake product works well.

Mealy bugs and scale

These two insects are much more secretive and more difficult to detect until they have built up quite a colony. Mealy bugs look like specks of cotton and frequent the inner parts of the plant where they can hide at the bases of leaves or crowns of plants. They can be done away with by the Q-tip and alcohol method, with just a few plants. If it is a large scale infestation, a systemic that is applied foliarly (sprayed on the leaves) is more reasonable.

Scale tend to hide in the same kinds of places and eventually travel to the stems. They are hard, brown or beige lumps that, when poked with a fingernail or sharp instrument, yield a soft, live insect inside A systemic insecticide is taken in by the plant and renders it's juices poisonous, so that both of the these sucking insects are slowly poisoned, whether they are visible or not. One word of caution - almost any type of product, from soapy water to all insecticides, can be phytotoxic. Therefore, do not apply when the plant is in the sun. Either move the plant into shade to apply or wait for early morning or evening to apply.

Spider mites

Spider mites are rarely a problem since orchids have tough leaves.

However, softer leaved varieties such as Stanhopeas, Gongoras, Phalaenopsis, Lycastes, etc. are more susceptible. A thorough washing (plain water or water plus insecticidal soap) is most beneficial, and a follow up with a contact miticide (different from an insecticide) is usually sufficient.

Cultural practices

Not all orchid problems come in the form of insects. Diseases that are caused by fungi and bacteria can kill a plant much faster than any bugs. A few good cultural practices will minimize these occurrences.

- Have good air circulation around and under plants.
- Do not allow plants sit in water (except bog or stream orchids).
- Wash pots if reusing.
- Do not overwater. When watering, make sure the plants will dry quickly. Try to keep water out of crown areas.
- Isolate new plants. Observe for a few weeks before integrating them into the collection.
- Use sterile tools when making cuts, and sterilize before using on another plant.
- When repotting, I find it very helpful to have a pan of water with Physan™ in it to swish plants through. Cutting off old roots, sheaths, dead leaves, etc. leave many openings where bacteria can enter. Physan™ is a gentle soap type product that is a bacteriacide, fungicide and algacide. [Editors note: dipping more than one plant and/or tool through a solution may aid in the transmission of orchid virus.]
- If bacterial or fungal infections occur - treat immediately! Cut away diseased areas with a sterile tool until you reach healthy green tissue. Wash in a Physan™ solution, and then follow up with a dusting of powdered sulfur or a fungicide.
- Isolate infected plants! Diseases spread through splashing water, on insect's feet, or in the air! One can never be too careful.
- If you have a problem you cannot identify, bring the plant to your orchid society meeting or to a local orchid nursery for identification and suggestions for treatment. Just remember to keep your sick plant (and hands that are carrying the plant) away from the healthy plants in the area.

Don't let this chapter intimidate you. There are pitfalls in any hobby - particularly when working with living things. Knowledge is your best defense. By recognizing a problem you can take action to remedy it before it becomes a tragedy. Don't learn the hard way! If you see a problem and don't know how to fix it - ask an orchid growing friend. We all experience the same beasts among our beauties.

[Editor's comment: Many pesticides can be harmful to both your health

and the health of your plant if applied incorrectly. If you insist on using pesticides, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

There are some fairly benign pest removal options, such as spraying with soapy water, removing bugs with a cotton swab dipped in isopropyl alcohol, or even just using your fingers to remove the insects! Even some of these methods can cause problems when used incorrectly.

No matter what method you use, we strongly suggest you get advice from someone who has experience with orchids. Orchids don't always react the same as garden plants, so you need to get advice specific to orchids.

Disclaimer: The authors of this handbook do not endorse or recommend any treatment for pests and/or diseases. We do not accept any responsibility for possible human health problems or plant damage as a result of treating plants for pests or diseases.]

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Our Big Fat Orchid Wedding

by Carol Siegel

Our club celebrated its first orchid "wedding" as Daniel Vong "married" Clarice Dean's Cattleya schroederi with my Cattleya schroederi. Amid all the merriment, Daniel tied dated tags around the ovaries at the base of the flowers of both plants that we hoped would bear seed. One of the members pulled me aside and whispered, "How come there are two brides?!" Another member asked me if the offspring would look exactly like their parents while another wanted to know what we would do with the seed. Our members had LOTS of questions. Perhaps this will answer some of them.

Almost all orchids are hemaphrodites, that is, they are BOTH male and female. (Catasetum, for example, is an exception.) An orchid can contribute pollen to another orchid and still get "pregnant", develop a seed pod, and produce seed, usually from the pollen of ANOTHER orchid The last of the flowering plants to evolve over 120 million years ago,orchids have very special sex organs. Their male and female parts are fused into a structure called the "column", about the size of the first joint of a child's pinky that sticks up right in the middle of the flower. At one end of the column is the male part, the stamen and balls of pollen covered with a little movable cap and under that is the sticky female part, the stigma. Orchids shrink-wrap their pollen into tiny egg-yolk-looking pairs called "pollinia". Their pollen doesn't blow in the wind. It all sticks together in a little ball and has to be carried off by an insect. At our wedding, the toothpick served to pick up the sticky pollinia and deposit it on the even more sticky female stigma. Some orchids have two pollinia and others have more. Phalaenopsis have two; cattleyas have four; laelias have eight, and Brassavola cucullata has 12. Each pollinia is attached to a stalk, a so-called "caudicle" or "stipe" that is attached to a sticky patch called a "viscidium". Under the male portion, a partition called the "rostellum" separates the male and female part and prevents self-pollination. The rostellum on some orchids also secretes a strong glue to help the pollinia stick to the female part.

Insects often eat the pollen of other plants, but nobody eats orchid pollen. When you get orchid pollen, you get it all. In nature, when the bee enters the orchid column, the cap covering the pollinia is down. If the bee has pollinia on his head or back, it attaches to the sticky stigma and is pulled off. When the bee exits the flower, his body lifts the cap and he comes in contact with the pollinia.

Either glue from the rostellum cements it on the bee's body, or the sticky viscidium attaches it to the bee's body like a backpack or a little helment.

In three to eighteen months, a seed capsule develops with a minimum of 25,000 seeds like Barbosella australia to over 7,500,000 seeds like Cyrtopodium punctatum. There is no food for the growing orchid in the seed, no "endosperm" as it is called, like in an apple seed, so the seed must land on a mycorrhyzal fungus in order to grow which provides food for little plant. The seeds are very light, 8-10 cells of embryo, in a one-cell thick seed husk, so light that it can float on the wind all over the globe. After a hurricane, orchid seeds from Africa have been found in Florida.

What will we do with our seed? With Daniel's help, we will put them in a sterile flask which has agar, a nutritive gel, in which the seeds can grow. The agar takes the place of the fungus which in nature would be the "nanny" of the orchid seeds. Daniel will bring in flasks to our next meeting to show us how they function. Some seeds will successfully develop into a little green ball called a "protocorm" which will eventually grow into a seedling. They will be transplanted into a community pot and into bigger pots as they grow.

Some of our seed we hope to donate to the Orchid Seed Bank run by Aaron Hicks whom we have invited to speak to our club. The seed bank tries to preserve the seeds of orchid species, which are the "wild orchids", exactly as they are found in nature. This will help conserve species in an endangered habitat. Also, we hope to have others grow our little schroederi species plants as our way of making a contribution to conservation and to encourage other members of the club to do this, too.

People sometimes ask why there are so few hybrids, crosses of different species, in nature. Orchids can actually make a successful cross between different species and even different genera, like Laelia and Cattleya, if you take a toothpick and put the pollen from one mechanically on the stigma of another. However, in nature there are many barriers to this sort of crossing out of the species. Often the species or genera are physically on another continent so mating is out. Sometimes, the flower of one species is open when the flower of another is closed so the timing is off. In addition, sometimes the pollinator of one species is too big to mechanically fit in the flower of another species or is

just not interested in the sight or smell of the second species or genera. All that can be overcome with a toothpick!!

Will the orchids look just like their parents? No. Just as your children are all different, some smarter, some prettier, some looking nothing like you, so orchids resulting from a cross of two plants will vary somewhat even if they are from the same species. The only way to have an EXACT copy is to make a clone, called a "mericlone" in orchid lingo which is done all the time. A tiny incision into the growing bud at the baseof an orchid like a cattleya is chopped up and placed on agar. When that forms a protocorm, it is chopped up again, and the process continues until we have as many orchids as we want. A 1/12" inch piece of growth bud can produce ONE MILLION exact copies of the plant this way!! This revolutionary technique, Georges Morel's discovery, has made award-winning orchids inexpensive and widely-available.

You may want to make a cross of two plants of the same species to aid in conservation. Perhaps you don't care about conservation but would just like to cross two of your plants to see what happens and have the experience. Below is an article from the AOS website on how to set orchid seed. If you have a species in bloom and would like to cross it with another plant of the same species, e-mail me or phone (254-4168) and we will put your plant in an "Orchid Personals" ad and try to find a mate for your plant. Another first!!