



# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

August 4, 2002<sup>3<sup>rd</sup></sup> P.M.  
BBQ!

Our meeting will be in the usual place, the Nevada Garden Club Building Washington and Twin Lakes, at the west corner of Lorenzi Park at 2 p.m. SHARP.

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT  
MARIA PEREZ-VICE-PRESIDENT  
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY  
DIANA SMITH- TREASURER

AND...

Michelle Williams and El Requa - Membership Chairmen  
Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian  
Leslie Doyle and Tony Billitere- Raffle Chairmen  
Phyllis Bond, Shelly North and Eileen McKyton- Special Events Chairmen  
Jeri Lee and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison  
Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless- Hospitality Chairmen  
Alex McKyton -Building Chairmen and Webmaster  
Tex Severance- Show and Tell Guru  
Scotty Nogaim- Election Chairman  
Liz Leone- Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian

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|-------------------------------|--|
| August 4, 2002                | Annual Barbecue Mt. Charleston home of Eldine Stevens<br>Dan Vong will do a presentation on potting and fertilizing!<br>Bring a dish for 10 people |
| September 8, 2002             | Mike Glikbarg returns to speak with LOTS of blooming<br>Orchids (topic under discussion).  |
| October 6, 2002               | Wildflowers of Las Vegas With Dr. Pat Leary (including<br>native orchids)  |
| November 3, 2002              | Lecture by Bill Bergstrom of Bergstrom<br>Orchids " Orchids of Peru"(hosted by the McKytons)   |
| December 1, 2002              | Holiday Party.   |
| VERY tentative schedule: 2003 |  |
| January 5, 2003               | Bob Gordon on Phal Culture<br>Fourth Annual White Elephant Sale  |
| February 2, 2003              | Karen Muir on Brachy Paphs   |

March 2, 2003      Second Annual Virtual Greenhouse Tour  
 May 4, 2003      Harry Phillips from Andy's Orchids on Mounted Orchids  
                          Nick Burnett on Nine Ways to Kill an Orchid  
 October 5, 2003    Charles Weckerle-Thrun on Potting Different Orchid  
                          Genera  
 Trying to get Paul Grippe of Santa Barbara Orchids

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On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the club will be having a barbecue at Eldine Steven's house at Mt. Charleston at 12:30 p.m. A map is included in the newsletter. For those who would like to carpool up the mountain, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Home Depot on Rainbow near Alta and park and meet near the bank closest to Rainbow. We thank Eldine once again for opening her home to us. Dan Mumau will kindly be bringing up the hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken which the club will pay for. He will also be doing the cooking. Eldine will kindly provide drinks and paper goods. Everyone who comes should bring a dish- appetizer, main dish, casserole, vegetables, salad, fruit, or dessert, enough for 10-12 people just like at Christmas time. WE ASK THAT YOU WRITE OR TYPE OUT THE RECIPE SO THAT JERI LEE CAN PUT IT IN THE COOKBOOK TO BENEFIT THE HOMELESS SO WE CAN FINALLY GET THAT PROJECT ON THE ROAD!! If you buy your dish, any of your recipes would be just fine. Wouldn't it be wonderful for our club to do something nice for others while we enjoy our lucky lives. It is beautiful and cool in the mountains at this time of year, and we always have a good time. COME!! I know that I will...

~~long we have my friends brought orchids and providing growing supplies for the raffle. He~~  
 has been gracious enough to prepare a talk on potting and fertilizing for the  
 barbecue. We thought that an informal talk like that might be fun. If you have  
 growing orchids, bring them and we will have a show and tell segment.

the birth of two new grandbabies, Nera, Giana, Baier and Joshua Tyler -  
 el, could keep me from our July meeting. (I just had to fit it in somehow...)

Thanks so much to Diana Smith and Eileen McKyton for making sure everything  
 smoothly. The member turnout was sensational. Word has it that they  
 liked to hear Diana do her splendid presentation on "Forty Orchids to Grow in  
 Greenhouse", chock-full of new and interesting plants to add to our



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collections. We are so lucky to have this talented and enthusiastic lady (and teacher) in our club. Thank you so much, Diana, for all the work

Diana especially mentioned all the terrific help she got at the meeting with setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs. That is so nice. We thank Michelle and Sasha, Dan and Mike for the warm greetings to members. Liz Leone and her husband John made wonderful food (after inviting us all for a barbecue at their home on July 4<sup>th</sup>, too...). Liz discussed the library and presented books. (I borrowed the tape on pests and disease from the library and got tips that have already wiped the mealy bugs out of my growing area.) The library is a great idea!! Borrow some books and donate ones that you are finished with.

Dan Vong provided growing supplies for the raffle table, Scotty Nogaim donated her famous pomegranate jelly, Dan Mumau brought in donated hotel dendrobiums, and Diana Smith donated tillandsia. Thanks, guys! Daniel Vong also sold lovely orchids.

Our show and tell guru Tex Severance discussed lovely blooming orchids brought in by members Michelle William, Tony Billitere (who was wearing Bill Tontsch's name tag—guess he has Bill in his name, too), Alex McKyton, Karen Good and Diana Smith. Everyone who brings in a blooming plant gets a free raffle ticket, our way of saying congratulations and thanks for sharing.

We send get-well wishes to El Requa and wish her a speedy recovery from her surgery. Our thoughts are with Maria Perez for a quick recovery from her surgery, too. We are glad to hear that Dan Mumau has recovered from his surgery, too.

You might like to know that Jane Green has started a pet and plant service, Paws and Pets. She can water your orchids when you can't!! 255-3648. Try her!

Following the newsletter is a little article I wrote on "What Is An Orchid?!" (The answer is not "The thing you spend all your money on," though it could be!! There is also an article on orchid name pronunciation that I got off the web.

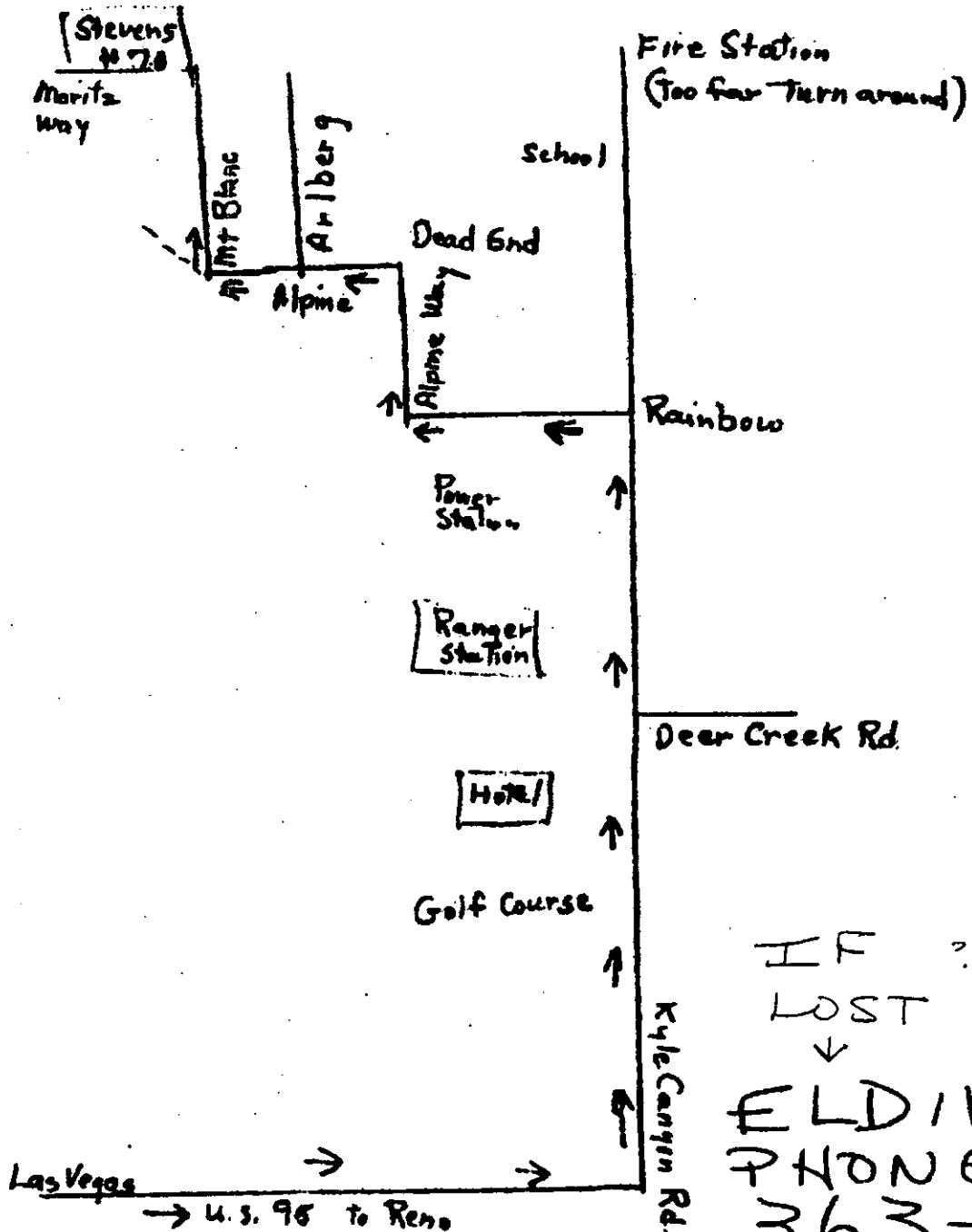
Keep blooming Stay cool and healthy!! Love, Carol Newsletter Editor

# BARBECUE

SUNDAY AUGUST 4 12<sup>30</sup> pm

Want to carpool

Meet at 11<sup>30</sup> pm at Home Depot parking lot (Rainbow near Alta) near the bank



Stevens #70 Moritz Way  
phone 872-5466

363 6777

## Is That An Orchid?

My daughter received lots of flowers after the birth of her second child. My four-year-old granddaughter loves flowers just like Grandma. She stood on tiptoes and smelled a Casablanca lily. "Granma, look!" she said. "Mommy got an orchid."

"That's not an orchid, it's a lily. It's a lily!"

"It looks like an orchid. It smells like an orchid. How do you know it's not an orchid?" the munchkin demanded.

Hmmmm. Good question. Why wasn't the lily an orchid? How DO you know when something is an orchid or NOT an orchid. So I looked it up... Next time, YOUR grandchild or anyone else for that matter asks you, you will know.

Lilies and orchids have lots in common. They are both monocots so they are built on threes. They both have three sepals and three petals. They both have a female part, the pistil, with three parts. They both have colorful and often spectacular flowers. They both often are very fragrant. They both have their ovaries underneath their flowers. MacKenzie Black thinks they both descended from the same order, Liliales, so they have the sort of similarity you find in distant relatives.

But they ARE different. Let's find out some of their differences.

### ORCHIDS ARE BILATERALLY SYMMETRICAL.

Lilies look the same in all directions. Orchids do not. Orchids are like us. We are different on the top half of our bodies from the bottom half. We are, however, the same on the left side as on the right side. We are bilaterally symmetrical. If you cut an orchid across the middle, the top half will be different from the bottom half. One of the petals of an orchid, the lip or labellum, is just spectacular, extra-fancy with spots and perfumes to attract pollinators. It is usually located on the bottom, not the top of the flower. If you cut an orchid

down the middle, it is the same on the left as on the right. It is NOT the same in ALL directions. It is bilaterally symmetrical.

However, if you cut a lily in half across the middle, the top half will be just like the bottom half, and if you cut in down the middle, the left side will be just like the right side just like a daisy. It has radial symmetry. It is the same in all directions. That is one important difference. Lilies are like daisies. Orchids are like us.

### ORCHIDS OFTEN GROW ON TREES

Lilies always grow in soil in the ground. Although orchids do grow in the ground, the majority grow suspended in air on the branches of trees. They are "epiphytes", air plants, with many specialized structures to help them endure drought. Some orchids have swollen stems, pseudobulbs, like a camel's hump to store extra water. Many have succulent leaves to conserve moisture. Several orchids have thick aerial roots covered with an absorbent material called velamen, which helps them absorb moisture from mists and clouds, rather like blotting paper. Many epiphytic orchids have chloroplasts in their roots and can produce food. Some orchids like *Chilochistra* and *Micropodiella* have lost their leaves completely and rely only on their roots only for photosynthesis. Many orchids are adapted to living on a tree, something a lily cannot do.

### ORCHIDS HAVE MICROSCOPIC SEEDS

Orchids have huge quantities of microscopic seeds. Ruschi in 1986 estimated that a single fruit of *Cyrtopodium punctatum* produces over 7 ½ million seeds! The smallest number of orchid seeds is in a fruit of *Barbosella australis* with only 25,000 seeds—still a huge number when compared with the countable big seeds of a lily. Orchid seeds are so numerous that Charles Darwin once estimated that if all the seed in a single plant of *Dactylophiza maculata* grew into mature plants, the great-grandchildren of a single plant would cover the entire surface of the land throughout the earth!

Orchid seeds, designed to float on air, are super-light, six to eight cells covered with a transparent coat, one cell thick! The seed is so small that there is no room to pack in a sack lunch for the growing embryo. There is no endosperm such as lilies provide for their babies. The little orchid seed is on its own and has to

land on a mycorrhizal fungus that will be its nanny until the orchid can grow leaves and roots of its own.

Orchids go through a transitional phase early in the development of the little orchid where the little ball of cells becomes a little, green amorphous mass, just 1mm long, called a "protocorm". Still an embryo, the protocorm has rudimentary roots and leaves, which will produce chlorophyll in a few months. During the protocorm stage, the orchid is like a child, living off its fungus. The protocorm will develop into an orchid, but the protocorm stage is a special characteristic of orchids.

### ORCHIDS HAVE VERY UNIQUE SEX ORGANS

Lilies have separate male and female parts in the flower and lots of powdery pollen. Their six pollen-carrying stamens face in all directions in the middle of the flower. Orchids have very special sex organs. The last of the flowering plants to evolve over 120 million years ago, they have a very complex sexual apparatus. Their male and female parts are fused into a structure called the column about the size of the top joint of a kid's pinky. Sometimes it looks like a doll, a bird, an insect, the neck of a swan, or a little face. It is usually white, green, or pink. Almost all orchids are hermaphrodites!! (Catasetum are one exception.) At one end of the column is the male part, the stamen and balls of pollen and at the other end two or three stigmas fused into a single sticky female cavity. Orchids are different from lilies in that they have one or two—not six—stamens which all face in only one direction. Male and female parts are separated by a rostellum, designed to prevent self pollination.

If you brush up against a lily, you will probably get orange pollen all over your shirt. Unlike lilies, there isn't any loose pollen in the majority of orchids. The pollen is shrink-wrapped into little rice-size, egg-yolk colored sticky balls called "pollinia" designed to be picked up and deposited by a specific insect, bird, or bat. Orchids seduce their pollinators into transporting their genetic materials with a series of lies, lures, and tricks. The pollinia lie in depressions covered by a hinged cap, where they look like a pair of eyes, according to Rebecca Northern! Pollinia come in sets of two—phals have two, cattas have four, laelias have eight, brassavola twelve.

With at least 25,000 species, orchids have tremendous variation from the tiny *platystele ornata*, a bouquet of which can fit into your wedding ring, to the gigantic *Grammatophyllum speciosa* which can grow bigger than a bull elephant. For everything you say about an orchid, there is always an exception. We say orchids have three petals, but in *Stelis* and *Masdevallia*, the petals are so tiny that they are barely visible. We say that orchids have three sepals, but in paphs that bottom two are fused so it looks like there are only two. We say there are separate sepals and a lip petal, but in most dendrobium, the sepals and the lip are fused together. In *Coryanthes*, the lip is modified into a swimming pool and in some *Dracula* into a mushroom. In 20% of orchids, the pollen is not formed tightly into a ball but is more granular. However, bilateral symmetry, the column, microscopic seeds, stamens facing in one direction will help you tell an orchid from anything else. So, if your grandchild asks YOU, I hope this helps!!

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I am grateful for the information in the following books that helped me in the preparation of this little article.

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## ORCHID PRONUNCIATION :




### How Do You Say

Acacallis	a-ka-KALL-iss
Acampe	a-Kam-pe
Acineta	a-sin-EE-ta
Ada	AY-da
Aerangis	ay-er-RANG-giss
Aeranthes	ay-er-AN-theez
Aerides	AIR-i-deez
Aganisia	ag-an-IZ-ee-a
Angraecum	an-GRYE-kum
Anguloa	an-gyew-LOH-a
Ansellia	an-SELL-ee-a
Arethusa	a-reh-THEW-za
Arpophyllum	ar-poh-FILL-um
Arundina	a-run-DEE-na
Ascocentrum	ass-koh-SEN-trum
Aspasia	a-SPAY-zi-a
Batemannia	bayt-MAN-nee-a
Bifrenaria	bye-fren-AIR-i-a
Bletia	BLEE-shia
Bletilla	ble-TILL-a
Brassavola	bra-SAH-vo-la
Brassia	BRASS-ee-ah
Broughtonia	brow-TOH-nee-a
Bulbophyllum	bulb-oh-FILL-um
Caladenia	kal-a-DEE-nee-a
Calanthe	kal-AN-thee
Caleana	kal-ee-AN-a
Calopogon	kal-o-POH-gon
Calypso	ka-LIP-so
Catasetum	kat-a-SEE-tum
Cattleya	KAT-lee-a
Cattleyopsis	kat-lee-op-sis
Caularthron	kawl-ar-thron
Chondrorhyncha	kon-droh-RINK-a
Chysis	KYE-siss
Cochleanthes	kok-lee-AN-theez
Cochlioda	kok-lee-OH-da
Coelia	SEE-li-a
Coelogyne	see-LOJ-in-ee
Colax	KOH-laks

Comparettia	kom-pa-RET-ee-a
Corallorrhiza	kor-al-lo-RYE-za
Coryanthes	ko-ree-AN-theez
Cycnoches	SIK-no-keez
Cymbidium	sim-BID-ee-em
Cypripedium	sip-ree-PEE-dee-um
Cyrtorchis	SIR-tor-kiss
Dendrobium	den-DROH-bee-um
Dendrochilum	den-droh-KYE-lum
Dichaea	dye-KEE-a
Dilochia	dye-LOH-kee-a
Dipodium	dye-POH-dee-um
Disa	DYE-sa
Diuris	Dye-YEWR-is
Domingoa	do-ming-GOH-a
Doritis	doh-RYE-tis
Dossinia	doss-IN-ee-a
Drakaea	DRAY-kee-a
Earina	EER-ee-na
Encyclia	en-SEE-lee-ah
Epidendrum	eh-pi-DEN-drum
Eria	EAR-ee-a
Eriopsis	ear-ee-OP-siss
Erythrodes	err-i-THROH-deez
Euanthe	yew-AN-thee
Eulophia	yew-LOH-fee-a
Eulophidium	yew-loh-FID-ee-um
Eulophiella	yew-loh-fee-EL-a
Gastrochilus	gas-tro-KYE-lus
Grammatophyllum	gram-mat-o-FILL-um
Habenaria	hab-en-AY-ri-a
Hexisea	heks-ISS-ee-a
Homalopetalum	ho-mal-oh-PET-al-um
Houlletia	hoo-LET-ee-a
Huntleya	HUNT-lee-a
Ionopsis	eye-o-NOP-siss
Ipsea	IP-see-a
Isabelia	iz-a-BELL-ee-a
Isochilus	eye-so-KYE-lus
Isotria	eye-SOH-tree-a
Jaquiniella	jack-i-nee-ELL-a
Jumellea	joo-MELL-ee-a
Laelia	LAY-lee-ah or LIE-lee-a
Laeliopsis	LAY-li-OP-sis
Lankesterella	LANK-es-ter-ELL-a
Leochilus	lee-o-KYE-luss
Lepanthes	lee-PAN-theez
Lepanthopsis	lee-pan-THOP-siss
Leptotes	lep-TOH-teez
Liparis	LIP-a-riss
Listera	LISS-ter-a

Lockhartia	lok-HART-ee-a
Lycaste	lye-KASS-tee
Masdevallia	mas-de-VAL-lee-a
Miltonia	mil-TOH-nee-a
Nageliella	NAY-gel-i-ELL-a
Neofinetia	nee-o-fin-AY-tee-a
Neottia	nee-OTT-ee-a
Notylia	no-TILL-ee-a
Oberonia	o-ber-ROH-nee-a
Odontoglossum	o-don-toh-GLOSS-um
Oncidium	on-SID-ee-um
Paphiopedilum	paff-ee-oh-PEE-di-lum
Phalaenopsis	fal-en-OP-sis
Pleione	plye-OH-nee
Rhynchostylis	rink-oh-STYE-liss
Sophronitis	sof-roh-NYE-tiss
Spathoglottis	spath-oh-GLOT-tiss
Vanda	VAN-da

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