

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2004

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE USUAL PLACE, THE NEVADA GARDEN CLUB BUILDING AT WASHINGTON AND TWIN LAKES 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 - 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

Teri Lee and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison

Alex McKyton -Building Chairmen and Webmaster

Tim Severance and Mike Levin- Show and Tell Gurus

Tim 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

February 1, 2004	Carol Siegel "The Sex Life of Orchids"
March 7, 2004	Ron Coleman "Wild Orchids of North America"
March 20, 2004	Spring Plant Sale, Leslie Doyle's Home
April 4, 2004	Charles Rowden, "Orchid Photography"
April 9-11, 2004	Easter Show at the Cal
May 1, 2004	Sunset Flower Show at Green Valley Library
May 2, 2004	Norman Fang, Owner of Norman's Orchids "Phalaenopsis"
June 6, 2004	Glen Decker, Owner Piping Rock Orchids, "Phragmipedium"
July 11, 2004	Virtual Greenhouse Tour SECOND SUNDAY
August 1, 2004	Barbecue

Sept 12, 2004	Mike Blitz, Exotic Orchids of Maui SECOND SUNDAY
October 3, 2004	Aaron Hicks, "The Orchid Seed Bank"
November 7, 2004	The Further Exploits of Bill Bergstrom in Mexico
December 5, 2004	Fifth International Food Fest and Holiday Party
January 9, 2005	Mike Glikbarg SECOND SUNDAY
February 6, 2005	Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids, "Orchid Growing For Dummies"
March 6, 2005	Jerry Fischer, owner Orchids Limited, "The Orchids Of Borneo"
July 10, 2005	SECOND SUNDAY Sheldon Takahashi, owner Carmela's Orchids, "Cattleyas"
August 7, 2005	Barbecue
December 4, 2005	Sixth Annual International Food Fest and Holiday Party

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We started off the year with fun and education at our January meeting. Always a big hit, our White Elephant Sale generated lots of interest, excitement, and a \$600 profit. Once again, we proved that we will buy just about anything! Thanks to Eileen McKyton who provided us with thirty cattleyas from Carmela's Orchids for the sale. That involves not only ordering but going down to Fed Ex to pick up, uncrating the plants, and bringing them to the meeting. Her honey, Alex, who now insists on being called Pizza Boy, picked up the pizzas for our Pizza Party—and wouldn't accept a tip. Thanks to the Board, Carol, Clarice, Eileen and Diana, for providing the fun food. A special "hats off" to Steve Ninemire who donated a table full of Sharry Baby oncidium for our sale, babysitting for them the whole month at his home.

We enjoyed a wonderful talk on dendrobiums by John Salventi and his partner Tom Purviance of Parkside Orchids. What a fascinating genus those dendrobium are! He distributed culture sheets that stressed "forgetting" about dendrobiums that lose their leaves in the winter like *Dendrobium nobile*, *anosmum*, and *chrysanthum*—little or no water or fertilizer when they lose their leaves. (No wonder they weren't doing well...) It was interesting to note that you can't treat all dendrobium alike since they are a very diverse group. If you have dendrobium orchids, look up their specific care.

Congratulations to Dan and Michelle Vong who welcomed the birth of their third child and first daughter, Alyssa. We are glad that our guru Tex is feeling better and hope to see him at our next meeting.



ORCHID SOCIETY
OF THE PACIFIC
HONOLULU, HAWAII
JANUARY 2006

With great fanfare, we rolled out our new library cart, a big fancy affair that makes it much easier to get to know and rent our many books and magazines. Thanks to Steve Ninemire who picked out this very good choice—and is a great librarian—and to Diana Smith who helped get it delivered. If there is a book you want in our library, tell us and we will buy it. It's a good use for our White Elephant profits. Remember that there is no longer a deposit to rent books from our library. It is totally free!!

On February 1, I will be presenting a slide lecture on "The Sex Life Of Orchids", a talk that I have done for many orchid and garden clubs. I will be doing it this year in Salt Lake City in April, in the Green Valley Library in May, at the San Diego Horticultural Society in September, and in Reno and San Francisco, date to be decided. If you heard this talk a few years ago, it have lots of new information and some new slides since the talk has evolved as I have learned more. We thank Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless, and Jeri Lee in advance for providing snacks, and Dan Vong for providing plants and supplies for the sale and raffle.

It is time to renew your orchid club membership. The price is still \$25 for singles, \$35 for couples (defined as two members at the same address). We hope you feel, as I do, that it is a really good value. You can pay at the party or you can send me a check made out to GLVOS. My address is Carol Siegel 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive Las Vegas, NV 89117 254-4168. Don't know if you paid yet? Look on your newsletter envelope label. If it says, (03) after your name, you haven't paid yet. If it says (04) after your name, you have! If there is an * before your name, it means you were a guest and have never paid. You need to pay soon to keep getting the newsletter. IF YOU HAVE DECIDED NOT TO JOIN AGAIN, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL OR E-MAIL ME (254-4168 or growlove@cox.net) so we won't incur the expense of the newsletter. Don't forget to update you address, phone and e-mail when you come to the meeting. Check with Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless or Eileen McKyton, our friendly Hospitality Committee, to make sure we have the right information for you.

We have some fun events coming up. On March 20, Leslie Doyle will be graciously opening her home to us for the Annual Spring Plant Sale. Sign up at the meeting to help with this fun fund raiser for the club. On April 9th to 11th, we will be helping with the orchid show, Easter Show at the Cal, put on by our sister society, the

Torrance Cymbidium Society. We hope that Shelly North and Phyllis Bond will once again do an award-winning display and that all the members will bring down their blooming plants. We will also have a new display on the native orchids of Nevada. I have gotten AOS judging for the show, so you can show your plants and win an AOS award. On May 1st, we will be putting in a display at the Green Valley Library as part of the Sunset Flower Show- May Memories- and I will be doing my "sex" talk in the library. We are hoping that we will attract new members from the east side of town who have not heard of us. Yes, there are still people! Take part in these spring activities, meet the other club members, have fun—and build our club.

We are also looking forward to seeing our native orchids with Dr Pat Leary, Chairman of Biology at CCSN. He will take us to see *Epipactis gigantea* in May and *Platanthera sparsiflora* in July as optional trips in addition to our regular meetings. We hope Mother Nature will cooperate, and the orchids will put on a show, despite the drought.

Don't forget that there is a wonderful orchid show February 5th-8th at the South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, CA. I know I wouldn't miss it for anything! Want information on the show and the great speakers that will be there (I will try to get some of them for our meetings!!), log on to www.fascinationoforchids.com.

Following the newsletter are two articles. One is the third installment of the invaluable guide to orchid nurseries by the talented Clarice Dean, and the other is by me on avoiding orchid discouragement. Clarice has written about nurseries in Santa Barbara. Don't forget the show in Santa Barbara, Wonderful World of Orchids, will be held March 19-21st at the Earl Warren Showgrounds (www.SBOrchidShow.com).

Stay safe and healthy and keep blooming!! See you February 1st. Love, Carol

Touring California Orchid Growers

Part 3: Santa Barbara Area

by Clarice Dean

Santa Barbara is called the American Riviera for a good reason! The sloping hills above the Pacific Ocean overlook wide, clean beaches that show off the relaxed character of this spectacular mission-like beach community. Is it any wonder that shopping for orchids in this area is a pleasant and leisurely activity? Nothing like the hectic pace of Los Angeles. Things just happen slower in Santa Barbara! The biggest problem with Santa Barbara for Las Vegas is getting there. Due to the land locked location, 360 miles on the other side of the mountains, there are only two ways to get there -- drive around the mountains or drive (or fly) over them. Driving around the mountain is your best and fastest route. Take I-15 south for 222 miles, then CA-210W for 20 miles. CA-210W becomes I-210W. Follow I-210 for another 19 miles, then CA134W for 13 miles and finally US101N to the center of downtown Santa Barbara which takes about 5 1/2 hours from my back door.

Baron's Orchids, 465 Harbor St., Morro Bay, CA, (805) 772-1320, FAX (805) 772-9710, www.baronsorchids.com, sales@baronsorchid.com, <http://stores.ebay.com/baronsorchids>. Retail store open daily. Baron's Orchids is a full service retail and wholesale orchid nursery. They carry a large selection of blooming plants, cut orchid stems and bouquets, they carry many hard-to-find items, rare species and a general line of orchid supplies. Also, a large selection of *Vanda* hybrids. 120 miles north of Santa Barbara.

SLO Gardens, 955 Branch Mill Rd., Arroyo Grande, CA (805) 489-3319, FAX (805) 489-3319, www.slogardens.com, slogarden@thegrid.net. Open by appointment, Monday-Friday. Greenhouses located in San Luis Obispo County, halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles on the beautiful California central coast. Their goal is to provide complete customer satisfaction by providing the best quality orchid plants at a very competitive cost. All plants they offer for sale are selected for ease of growth and culture and will thrive when grown under intermediate conditions, up to highs of 90°F and lows of 52°F. Many different genera including

Cattleya, Dendrobium, Vanda, Dracula, Oncidium and many others. Different light intensities and growing conditions are discussed in detail on their webpage. 91 miles north of Santa Barbara. It's best to call for directions.

The Orchid House, 1699 Sage Ave., Los Osos, CA, 93402, (805) 528-1417, FAX (805) 528-7966, Toll-free (800) 235-4139, www.orchidhouse.com, orchid@orchidhouse.com. Open Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00pm, and Sunday by appointment. The Orchid House specializes in *Paphiopedilum, Phalaenopsis, Cattleya* and *Vanda*. They also have sizeable collections of *Lycastes, Zygopetalums, Odontoglossum* and more. They do their own hybridizing, sowing and flasking. The owner Norris Powell states that, "Good quality air, water and an ideal climate for raising orchids has kept us here for over 40 years." For a complete list and cultural bulletin, please send \$5.00, which is refundable on your first order over \$100.00. If you are looking for the latest and most popular blooming size *Cattleya* hybrids at reasonable prices check The Orchid House first! 113 miles north of Santa Barbara.

Orchids of Los Osos, 1614 Sage Ave., Los Osos, CA, 93402, (805) 528-0181, Toll free (800) 556-7244 FAX (805) 528-2086, orchidland@aol.com, <http://stores.ebay.com/orchidsoflosos>, contact Mike Glikbarg. Mike specializes in cooler growing genera although he has extensive square footage devoted to warm-growing varieties as well. Orchids of Los Osos is situated on almost nine acres in Los Osos Valley, and has been growing orchids for 30 years. Mike has 40,000 square feet of greenhouse space devoted to production and a tissue culture propagation lab. The nursery is part of Rancho de Los Osos, a Spanish land grant recorded in 1793. The micro-climate in this area - located in California's Coastal Range - coupled with the purity of water drawn from his own wells, makes the area particularly suited to the production of orchids. Located halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, the operation is open to visitors if you're ever in the area. Please make an appointment first so they can schedule the time to serve you better. However, the showroom area is normally open during regular business hours. The flower Mike is holding above is his own hybrid, *Dollgoldii "Oso Grande."* 113 miles north of Santa Barbara.

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, 1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara, CA, 93111, (805) 967-1284, FAX (805) 683-3405, www.sborchid.com, sboe@sborchid.com. Open Monday - Saturday, 8:00am to 4:30pm & Sunday, 11:00am to 4:00pm, closed on

major holidays. Five acre orchid nursery established in 1967 now owned by the children of Paul Gripp, Perry and Alice. They are collectors and propagators of orchid species and hybrids, specializing in outdoor temperature tolerant varieties. Take the Patterson exit from 101 and turn toward the ocean; go about two miles south, following the yellow divider line to where it ends into Orchid Drive; you will find the estate up the hill in a neighborhood, after three speed bumps on the left. They sponsor several events each year that feature their \$7.50 specials. You'll find some wonderful hard to find species and hybrids -- cheap! Many that have bloomed for me the following year. It's worth while checking their webpage everyday for the *Orchid of the Day* which is usually in spike.

Cal-Orchid Inc., 1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara, CA, 93111, (805) 967-1312, FAX (805) 967-6882, www.calorchid.com, info@calorchid.com, James & Lauris Rose and Ned Nash. Open Monday - Saturday, 9am to 4pm. A wholesale, retail orchid greenhouse and nursery with an extremely varied and large inventory. Located across the street from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Their informative webpage includes monthly specials and culture data. Guest vendors sell plants on the grounds during the summer Orchid Fair. Located within walking distance to Santa Barbara Orchid Estate.

Gallup & Stribling Orchids, 3450 Via Real, Carpinteria, CA, 93013, (805) 684-1998, FAX (805) 684-3227, www.gallup-stribling.com, sales@gallup-stribling.com. Gallup & Stribling's home farm occupies 48 acres along the central California coast just south of Santa Barbara. With more than 1.5 million square feet of greenhouse space, it is a state of the art breeding, growing and distribution facility. Open for retail sales Monday - Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday & Sunday, 8:30am to 5pm. Located five miles south of Santa Barbara just off the 101 Highway. They are a major wholesale supplier of pot plants like *Cymbidium*, however, they carry a variety of genera in their orchid showroom for retail sales. 11 miles south of Santa Barbara.

Other Sources:

The Orchid Society of Santa Barbara's Annual Exhibition and Sale, usually the second weekend in November. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History at 2559 Puesta Del Sol Road, Santa Barbara Museum Admission \$6 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors.

59th Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, March 19-21, 2004, Earl Warren Showgrounds Exhibit Building, Highway 101 and Las Positas Road, Santa

Barbara, CA, 93105, (805) 687-0766. One of the world's most prestigious orchid shows takes place each spring in beautiful Santa Barbara, California. More than 70 commercial and amateur growers from the United States and around the world will display thousands of their most perfect orchids at the show. A special preview evening on Thursday, March 18, offers visitors a first look at the freshly arranged exhibits. Show Hours: Fri-Sat-Sun 9am to 5pm, www.SBORchidShow.com, \$10 general admission. Sponsored in part by the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate which will have extended hours: Fri 8-5, Sat 8-5, Sun 9-5. Santa Barbara's favorite orchid event, right at the peak of Cymbidium season. See the show and visit the nursery!

24th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Orchid Fair, July 9-11, 2004, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA. A weekend of *Orchids from Around the World*! Blooming to bare-root orchid plants for purchase, potting demonstrations, and friendly orchid expertise! The Orchid Fair is held at Earl Warren Showgrounds outdoors under festive, open-air canopies, concurrent with the Santa Barbara Summer National Horse and Flower Show featuring gardens, flowers, orchids, and other beautiful plants. Also visit the nursery for summer blooming varieties, \$7.50 specials, guest hobbyist vendors, and more! Free admission.

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate 46th Annual Fall Open House & Sale, Nov. 6 & 7, 2004: Saturday 8am - 5pm & Sunday 9am - 5pm, (Special Open House Hours) featuring: Cymbidium Season Kickoff, Laelia Anceps Parade, \$7.50 Specials, and the Silent Auction!

Remember, this is only a partial listing of the area growers. I hope to visit more growers and nurseries soon. Let me know of any notable places you visit. Clarice Dean, 5540 Santa Margarita, Las Vegas, NV 89118, (702) 876-2729, CCDEAN@aol.com.

(more below)

BATTLING ORCHID GROWER'S DISCOURAGEMENT-
or SUCCESS IS JUST BEYOND THE SPLAT
by Carol Siegel

There is a story about a man who was looking for success. He climbed the mountain and asked a guru which way was success. The guru thought and pointed to the west. The man went west and suddenly fell in a hole and went "splat". He went back to the guru and asked again. The guru again pointed west. The man again went west and hit a wall and went "splat". Bloody and bruised and really mad, he went back to the guru. "You said success was to the west. I went west, and all I did was go splat. You were wrong." The guru thought and said, "No, I was right. Success is to the west. You just have to keep going. Success is just a little beyond the first splat."

Many of us start growing orchids looking for success- healthy plants, pretty flowers, a rewarding experience and all we do is fall in a hole, hit a wall, and go splat. We water and fertilize and BUY and BUY, and our plants look unhappy and just don't bloom. We get discouraged and want to quit. You have got to keep going. Success IS just beyond the splat.

It is normal and natural to take time to learn to grow orchids. When I started growing orchids, I grew them by the bathtub. The plants kept falling in the tub, and there was always bark in my bath water. I got mealy bugs and ants but no flowers. My leaves were all shrivelly-looking. I brought one plant into a meeting for "diagnosis", and the speaker ripped it out of its pot, held it up naked for general scrutiny, and told everyone that the plant had NO roots, was not getting watered properly, had poor light, and was in the wrong potting medium. I nearly cried. I was ashamed. I always thought I was an earth lady who could grow anything. I was going splat big-time, but I wouldn't give up. I did not quit the club. I kept learning and growing. Now, I rarely have mealy bugs and ants, my leaves are plump, my plants routinely get flowers, and my orchids have lots of roots..

There are 10 things you can do to help you overcome the discouragement that is inevitable as you learn.

1.BE REALISTIC IN YOUR EXPECTATIONS:

Deborah Dillon-Townes in the January 2001 issue of the AOS Bulletin notes that there are four phases of amateur orchid growing:

Phase 1 Trying to keep it alive

Phase 2 Trying to get even one bloom.

Phase 3 Trying to get perfect plants and
blooms—and lots of them.

Phase 4 Competing for prizes to be the BEST

Everyone starts at phase one. Everyone kills plants in the beginning. They say you have to kill 1000 orchids in order to call yourself an "expert." Most people can't make them rebloom the first year. We buy plants in bloom, subject them to the desert and our learning curve, and they just sit there in shock. Remember that most plants don't bloom all the time. If you just bought it in bloom, it won't bloom again under the best of circumstances for several months, and probably for a year. Don't give up. Noone goes to phase 3 and 4 at once.

2.COME TO MEETINGS Our meetings are a source of information and encouragement. Greenhouse tours give you ideas for growing. Display plants give you hope. Raffles and auction plants give you something to practice on (poor dears...) Our speakers are experts in their fields who give you loads of information. Handouts give cultural information.

3.SPEAK TO OTHER GROWERS Don't be ashamed to ask for help. I told Phyllis Bond that my cattleya new growths were turning black, and she said my area was too cold, and I was watering too late in the day. She was right!! I changed culture, and not one of my new growth has died this season. I asked Marion Allen, one of our speakers, about watering, and she recommended potassium in my water softener instead of salt. She was right. My plants did much better. Mike Levin said they would do even better with de-ionized water and I upgraded to that—and had even better results. When Butch came and spoke to us about paphs last year, he said not to divide the multifloral paphs very much, and I didn't, and they did better and bloomed more.

4.GET AN ORCHID BUDDY If you are doing poorly, ask us for an orchid buddy. We will match you with a willing member who will answer your questions (best of ability,

of course) You can choose your own. We have membership lists available with phone numbers and e-mails. There are four dashes after the names of people who are willing to be mentors. Just remember: ASK.. Shy? E-mail another member with your questions. I have made lots of friends that way!

5.READ Make sure to become an AOS member. The AOS Bulletin is full of information. We have sign-ups at the meeting. The American Orchid Society sells wonderful books chock full of information at a 10% discount to members. Our club library has loads of good books, magazines, and tapes. The public and university libraries, bookstores, and internet have books. For every orchid you buy, try to read a book or magazine on orchids. The more you read, the better you will become at growing orchids.

6.BUY THE BEST ORCHIDS YOU CAN AFFORD Just as it is harder to keep a newborn alive than a thirty-year-old man, it is harder to grow a tiny plant than a mature one. Bigger plants are more resilient and can take a little more neglect and inexperience. Big plants are ready to bloom and will reward you sooner. Little plants often take YEARS to be old enough to bloom, and patience is something that new growers are very short on. Also, buy yourself a plant in bloom from time to time to keep your spirits up while you are learning. Waiting for your plants to get over the shock of your care as you learn is disheartening. Spruce up your collection with a plant with a flower, and you will be much happier!

7.EXPERIMENT Sometimes, a small change in your growing environment will make a big difference in your plants. G.C.K. Dunsterville, famous orchid adventurer and president of Shell Oil, in his book Orchid Hunting in the Lost World wrote about a *Scuticaria* orchid he brought home. He put it in his plastic-enclosed space in Venezuela and year after year the plant refused to bloom. As part of a slight reorganization, he moved it to an almost identical site three feet away. The plant started to develop buds and produced fine flowers As he said, "We still do not know what element in the move sparked off this gratifying response..."

Not having luck with a plant? If you are growing it close to the humidifier, try moving it further away. If you are growing a plant in lots of light, try finding a darker spot. If you are watering only once a week, try watering more often. If you are using one kind of fertilizer, try a different one. Within even a small growing

area, there are often little microclimates where one plant is happier than another. Experiment. A small difference can often make a BIG difference.

8.BE CREATIVE It is often difficult to provide the things orchids need in a desert living room. Look around. Could you create a little growing area in an extra bedroom? In a corner of the garage? In a guest bathroom? Could you hang plastic from a back patio and add a humidifier? Could you build a shelf unit on wheels, enclose it in plastic, add a pebble water tray and a fan? Could you add a humidifier and fan to orchids in a corner of the bedroom near a window? Could you enclose a balcony in an apartment and add a swamp cooler? Could you talk your beloved into buying/building/stealing a greenhouse for you? I grow in my garage enclosed in plastic under light carts from Hydrofarm. It works.

9.COMPROMISE Okay, so you didn't win the lottery. You can't afford a new house and a greenhouse. You can't have a thousand orchids. Well, just because you don't have the BEST and MOST orchids and growing area doesn't mean you can't hit phase 3 of the growing experience. You CAN get great orchid flowers. Not everyone has the time, energy and money for a large collection. A dozen plants is also a collection. Can't grow in natural light? Buy grow lights and put them over your orchids. Can't afford grow lights? Well, buy a few regular cool fluorescents and mix them with some warm-color ones. They will work. Maybe you can't afford to put in a reverse osmosis system. Well, put potassium in your water softener instead of salt, and your plants will do fine. Forced to water with tap water? (OY. Too much calcium in our water kills the plants) Well, at least dilute the tap water with bottled water once in a while so you don't get so much calcium. Don't have a swamp cooler? Buy a humidifier or run a fan over buckets of water. No room for a greenhouse? Hang plastic around any empty space, pump up the humidity, add a few lights, a fan, and voila! A greenhouse!

10. LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO WELL AND DO IT! Your little growing area may be better for some kinds of orchids and not so good for others. Grow what grows well. Diana Smith grows cattleyas best in her little greenhouse off her bedroom in the mountains. I grow paphs best in my garage under lights. Find out what you didn't kill—and grow those plants. Find out what blooms most often and gives the most pleasure to you. There are over 25,000 species of orchids and countless hybrids. There will be one or two that even you cannot kill. You will be the specialist in these orchids. No one will even know in two or three years that you even WANTED to

grow those other kinds you couldn't. Consider this time when you are having trouble learning to grow as the opportunity to find out just what orchids you WANT to grow.

So remember. Keep going. Don't get discouraged. In a year or two, YOU will be growing orchids, getting blooms, and experiencing success. Remember, as the guru will tell you, success is just beyond the splat!!