

The flyer is framed by detailed botanical illustrations of various orchid leaves and stems, some with small flowers. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. A dotted line separates the meeting location from the list of officers.

# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

MARCH 3, 2002 AT TWO P.M.

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

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

**DUES TIME: \$25 SINGLE \$35 COUPLE IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, AN ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.**

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

AND...

El Requa and Theresa Gerstner- Membership Chairmen  
Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian  
Leslie Doyle and Tony Billitere- Raffle Chairmen  
Phyllis Bond and Eric Doi and Eileen McKyton- Special Events Chairmen  
Jeri Lee and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison  
Dan Mumau- Hospitality Chairman  
Eric Doi and Alex McKyton -Building Chairmen  
Tex Severance- Show and Tell Guru  
Scotty Nogain- Election Chairman

March 3, 2002

Virtual Greenhouse Tour (starring slides of the Growing Areas of Mike Levin, Carol Siegel, Maria Perez, Eileen McKyton, Phyllis Bond, Diana Smith, Daniel Vorg, , Clarice & Dennis Dean, Gary Nelson, Scotty Nogain with Lillian Patterson, Master Photographer)

March 16, 2002 Spring Garden Sale  
 March 29-31, 2002 Easter Orchid Show at the California Hotel  
 With the Torrance Cymbidium Society AOS Judging  
 Bring plants for display/judging to Cal Thursday after 4:30  
 April 7, 2002 Sam Tsui, owner Orchid Inn  
 "Growing Orchids Under Lights"

June 2, 2002 Beginning to Intermediate Grower- Catasetum and Maxillaria  
 June 2, 2002 Norito Hasegawa, owner of Paphanatics, "Paph Sp How They Influence Hybrids"  
 July 7, 2002 Diana Smith, our very own orchid expert, on "Forty Orchids to Grow in Your Greenhouse"  
 August 4, 2002 Annual Barbecue Mt. Charleston home of Eldine S  
 September 8, 2002 Mike Glikberg returns to speak with LOTS of blo Orchids (topic under discussion)  
 October 6, 2002 Film on Orchids "Fatal Flower" or Wildflowers of With Dr. Pat Leary  
 November 3, 2002 Lecture by Bill Bergstrom of Bergstrom Orchids "Orchids of Peru"(arranged and hosted The McKytos)  
 December 1, 2002 Holiday Party

Well, We are making it into print!! Our Board members, Maria Perez, Ei McKyton, and Diana Smith hired a publicist who contacted the Review J about putting our club in the newspaper. They called me last night for an interview ( I wanted them to come to the club so we could all wear tuxedos they wanted to do it over the phone. Keep the tuxedos for the Holiday Party... We will be in the RJ in the next few weeks. I will tell you more when I know. Thanks to Maria, a marketing genius, who told us how to do this. We hope to attract more orchid-lovers and tell Las Vegas the good news—WE are here!!!

It was the best Superbowl Party I ever went to, even without the football. We had a great time at our February meeting, well-attended by even our die-hard football enthusiasts, thanks to an earlier starting time. Gary Nelson and Cliff Wood made fabulous food from goose to ham to soup and I brought lots of

dietetic cakes (right...) A very special thank you to Ken Snauwaert and Alex McKyton and others who worked very hard on setting up and taking down the chairs and tables for the meeting. What would we do without you!!! Please come a little early and help, too.

Conception Boyd, the charming and intelligent owner of the Orchid Connection, delivered a wonderful slide lecture on "The Orchids of Mexico". It was fascinating to see how orchids grow in the wild and interesting to see how Conception and her nursery get orchids from trees in the wild and just re-tie them on fence posts and in trees on her property in Vera Cruz. She jokingly said we could decorate our trees here in Las Vegas with orchids, too. Would that it were that easy in the desert!!! She discussed her frustration with the CITES regulation that prevented her from saving orchids that were eventually drowned in the construction of a dam in her area. CITES is supposed to save endangered species from exploitation but often works in just the opposite way, allowing species to die rather than be collected. That one needs a little work... She brought unusual species and hybrids mounted on manzanita wood to sell including laelia anceps, , epidenrum radicans, encyclia citrina, pleurothallis scheidii, and oncidium maculatum. She has a particularly good website, of which she is very proud ([www.orchidconnection.com](http://www.orchidconnection.com)) Check it out!! Many thanks to our lovely vice-president, Maria Perez, for finding and inviting Conception to speak to us. We appreciate all her help in contacting and helping host the speaker. She is a true friend of the club.

It is with great sadness that we send condolences to Bob Adler on the passing of his beloved wife, Eileen after a long illness. We are so sorry.

We also send condolences to Chuck and Laurel Dikunas on the passing of their beloved wife and mother, Susan.

I hope you are well enough to  
Several people in the club  
of their growing areas -- I  
person will present his or her  
it should be fascinating!!! We  
s: Dean, Dan, Vong, Scotty

Get well wishes are extended to Cathy Otis. We  
come to a meeting real soon!!!  
On March 3 we are having a Virtual Greenhouse  
Have taken or have had Lillian Patterson take slides  
have put them together in a slide show, and each  
own growing area with tips for other members. I  
thank Carol Siegel, Mike Levin, Glarice and Dennis

Nogaim, Eileen/Alex Mckyton, Shelly North, Phyllis Bond, Maria Perez, Gary Nelson, Diana Smith, Leslie Doyle, and, of course, the talented Lillian Patterson, for making the tour possible. It will allow us to see many more growing areas than we could on foot and should yield helpful ideas to beginners. Thanks to Chef Dan Mumau for preparing food for our meeting. He is a professional, and it should be a feast. Diana Smith has arranged with Daniel Vong, our very own member, to provide lots of orchids to sell.

On Saturday, March 16, we are participating in the Spring Plant Sale at Leslie Doyle's home once again. We will set up the plants on Friday, March 15. Eileen and Alex Mckyton were kind enough to volunteer to chair the sale. Response was good for people to set up and man the sale:

SETUP Friday, March 15 2pm or so (time later):

Carol Siegel, Gail Harris,

MaryAnn Fried, Mike Lawless, Alex Mckyton, and Eileen Mckyton

Saturday, March 16 8-12

Terry Wilsey, Myrna Browne, Phyllis Bond, Eileen Mckyton

Saturday, March 16 12-4

Gail Harris, Ann Shanklin, Diana Smith, Phyllis Bond, Eileen Mckyton

Thanks to all of these gracious people. Stop by Leslie's house at 5910 Sheila off Jones between Smoke Ranch and Cheyenne. It is a huge sale. We will be selling annuals and orchids, and Leslie will be selling her famous tomato plants, and it is always a great event. Last year we made \$800.

On Friday, March 29, our club will participate in the Easter Orchid Show at the Cal, sponsored by the Torrance Cymbidium Society. The hours will be Friday, March 29 1-6 p.m., Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. and Sunday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Judging will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 29 in the 'Ohana room at the California Hotel, downtown. Bring your plants on Thursday, March 28 after 4:30 to the hotel for inclusion in the display and show. Plants must be picked up on Sunday, March 31 at 3 p.m. We will have AOS judging for the first time, and you can win an AWARD!! You can enter plants that you have had for any amount of time, even three minutes, for an award, You are supposed to have ribbon entries for six months since they are awards for well-grown plants. Pat Rowland, Butch (Charles Weckerle Thrun), Mike Levin, Tex and Gidget Severance will be the judges. We also have a trophy that we can award for the best display. Phyllis Bond and Shelly North will work on the club display. Ken Snauwaert is putting in his own display. You can make a tabletop display, too! At

any rate, please bring plants. The more plants we have, award-winning or not, the more impressive our display will be. PLEASE!! Take part. We want a show of our own in the near future. Let us see if we are up to it!! Plants must be picked up on Sunday at 3 p.m.

Not only will we have AOS judging, but also all members from the Torrance Cymbidium Society, our club, and the Utah club attending the show will also vote for Best of Show, Best of Section, First Second, and Third Place in the categories of Standard Cymbidium, Mini-Novelty Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilum and Other Genera. The Torrance Cymbidium Society will be awarding 4 Two-Night Hawaii Package stays at the California Hotel as well as plaques. Voting will be on Friday, March 29 between 1 and 6 pm. Bring your plants along with the display win prizes and ribbons, and VOTE for awards. Last year, I won a plaque and a stay at the California Hotel. Our May speaker will be using my prize. I am thrilled!!

At our March 3 meeting, we will be taking volunteers to do clerking at judging and as good will ambassadors during the show. It will be fun!! Tex Severance, Show and Tell Guru and an AOS judge, will speak to us during our Show and Tell segment on characteristics of AOS award-winning plants.

Nevada Garden Clubs is having their Spring Annual Meeting at the Garden Club Center on Saturday, March 23 from 9am - 3pm or so. Lunch will be served and Dennis Swartzell, UNLV Director of Land Grounds and Arboretum will speak on "Trees of the West". Cliff Wood, Jeri Lee, Leslie Doyle, and Terry Wilsey have volunteered to represent us.

For your information, our club is affiliated with several other organizations:

1. The American Orchid Society, a privilege which allows us to use their slide programs, have AOS judging at our shows and be listed on their website ([www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org))
2. Orchid Digest, an excellent publication, which also allows us to use its slide programs.
3. Nevada Garden Clubs, the owner of the building we meet in. This is a national and regional organization as well (Nevada Garden Club and National Garden Clubs) Belonging to this organization allows us the rental of our meeting room and attendance at the Spring Meeting, and *The Silver State Gardener*.

4. Southern Nevada Council of Garden Clubs which runs the fall show and sale that we participate in.

I did not know all this, some of which we pay a small fee for, and I thought you might like to know, too.

\*\*\*\*\*Don't forget that we are collecting recipes for our Cookbook Project. Jeri Lee, our cookbook coordinator, encourages everyone to bring in recipes. We do not have enough!! If you wish, just copy your recipe and write a little something by hand on the top about it. You do not have to fill out the form. The cookbook will help support the club and raise money for the homeless. It is our way to give back to the community. Please help!!!\*\*\*\*\*

Following are two articles that I think will be of interest. One is about how to prepare your plants for exhibition and/or judging. The other is a synopsis of Bob Gordon's talk on phalaenopsis culture. Enjoy!!

See you at the March 3 meeting at 2 pm. Stay safe. Keep blooming!!

Love, Carol Siegel Newsletter Editor  
254-4168 [growlove@att.net](mailto:growlove@att.net)

I have included a little article at the end of the newsletter on preparing your plants for exhibition and judging. Thought it might be of interest!!

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

When Miss Nevada goes to Miss America contest, she spends a lot of time preparing in advance so that she looks her best. She certainly goes to the beauty parlor the day before. Our orchid plants need a beauty treatment, too, before being entered for display or judging. I asked several experts how best to prepare our orchids so that they have their best chance of winning an AOS award. Tex Severance, an AOS judge and beloved member, gave the following advice:

In American Orchid Society judging, the ENTIRE plant is judged- not just the flowers so it is very important to make the entire plant as attractive as possible. Wash the leaves with water and wipe with a soft cloth to remove any discolorations. Mild soap (like Ivory) can be used but should be thoroughly rinsed off. Be sure the plant is free of disease or insects. Remove brown coverings from old pseudobulbs, growth, etc. Flower stems should be staked up, especially the long inflorescences. Water your plants thoroughly BEFORE bringing them in for judging. They will get very thirsty during the show. Be aware that those plants that will be exhibited in our society's exhibit MAY be chosen for judging, even though a member has not planned on entering that plant. Judges frequently spot plants in an exhibit that they think are deserving of an award and so that plant gets removed from the society exhibit for judging. So it's a good idea to groom ALL your plants before you bring them in for the show. Clean the outside of the pots, too.

Karen Muir, Pacific Region Judging Chairman, also suggests that you clean your plants. Clean the leaves with diluted milk as it cleans well and doesn't put on an artificial sheen. Tie up your plants when the spikes first appear so that they show well. Put your mailing address labels on bottoms of the pots to make it easier to find again after the show. Look up your hybrids so you can list them correctly on an entry form. Make sure your plant name is spelled correctly. Mike Levin adds that plants be at their prime, not past it. The show will stress the

flowers anyway, and flowers that are on the way out will not have a chance. You can still display your plant, though, in our display.

Bob Gordon, in his excellent book *Culture of the Phalaenopsis Orchid, Revised*, 1990, p. 145, makes some good last-minute suggestions. Clean the leaves and spikes the day before with a tissue and full-fat milk to put a nice gloss on the leaves. Do not use commercial leaf-shining products which put an unnatural gloss on plants that turns some judges off. Lemon juice in a little water helps clean the surfaces and is good for water stains. Use a q-tip to clean difficult spots and don't forget the stems. When staking your spikes, use extra ties to prevent damage in transit, which you will remove at the show. Be careful to protect the plant from wind and sun while moving the plant and water the plant right before leaving for the show. Never bring a diseased or infested plant. As he says, "If you don't want to be treated like something that just crawled out from under a rock, keep your sick or buggy plants at home where they belong."

He makes some suggestions for show preparation if the show is several months away. These are for phals but I think would apply to many other types of orchids. Try to get your repotting done early so that the plant has a chance to get over the trauma of repotting. Place the plant with its best presentations of leaves toward the light source so that the flower spike and good leaves are on the same side. Leave the spiking plant undisturbed until the plant flowers so that the flower spike is not all twisted and turned and crooked. He suggests specializing in one type of flower so that you can know everything about it and grow it well. Be careful not to splash cold water on the flower spike which may respond by dying. As flower buds start to take form, he suggests switching fertilizer back from high phosphorous to a balanced formula. Increase watering. Take care of insects so that they don't damage plants that will be shown. As the first buds open, move the plants into lower light keeping the same orientation to the light. Lower light and cooler temps allow a more lush, softer, and larger bloom development. Interesting!!

Kathy Barrett, a lovely and smart lady from the Diablo View Orchid Society, gave a talk to her society on preparing plants for a show. I e-mailed her, and she was kind enough to send me some of her tips. With thanks to Kathy, here is her advice:

"Preparing orchids for a show isn't as tough as it sounds. Usually its just a



matter of cleaning the dust off the leaves and making sure they are properly staked according to any show rules. Each show has its own rules, so the exhibitor should familiarize themselves with them. For example, the rules for the San Francisco society's Pacific Orchid Exposition require that all pots be covered, plants staked with wooden or bamboo stakes, and all wire hangers removed.

Nevertheless there are a few points to cleaning up an orchid that are universal.

- 1) Whenever possible all dried sheathes should be removed, so the clean pseudobulb is shown. Old dried inflorescences should be cut off.
- 2) Dried or blackened leaf tips should be cut off in such a way to yeild a natural appearence to the leaf. (do not cut them bluntly, or horizontally, across the leaf).
- 3) Wipe leaves with milk in order to clean off hard water spots and give a natural sheen to the leaf. Many people will use other products, like mayonnaise or the spray 'Leaf Shine', but to my eye the slight shine that milk produces appears natural. Amazingly there actually is an AOS rule against an unnaturally high shine on orchids exhibited for AOS awards.
- 4) Stake the inflorescence so that the flower presents itself to the viewer for maximum effect. Tall inflorescences, such as oncidiums, should be staked erect, or as erect as possible. Cut the stake (horizontally, so you don't poke your eye out) so it is not taller than the flower it is supporting. Hide any twist-tie ends out of the way, usually along the stake, 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, just so it looks freshly repotted. It smells good too.
- 7) Diseased or infested plants should not be displayed.

Are these rules cast in stone? No, of course not.

However plants that are cleaned up will present themselves better when seen en masse, and that makes the difference when it comes time for the judges to consider the best display in the show. That's where having a display full of clean, well-presented plants (with lots and lots of ribbons) comes into play!

Of course, rules are made to be broken. If I had to err it would be on the side of having the best presentation as possible for the plant. Who hasn't found that oncidium spike smashed up against the greenhouse glass, such that upright staking would show the individual flowers in disarray. By all means leave the inflorescence arching gracefully in that situation. If you have no time to desheath pseudobulbs its best to leave them alone rather than do a botched job of it. If staking masdevallia blooms with bamboo stakes would yeild a plant that looked more like a pincushion than an orchid, then either don't stake them or (gasp) use metal supports. Use your best judgment.

Two other helpful hints:

Put your name on the pot. I usually write on masking tape and place one label on the bottom of the pot and one on the side. You never know which

full of it in the first place, and what to expect to get back!

I know, it sounds like a no-brainer, but in my case that's what we're dealing with! I can't remember from one second to the next what I'm doing or where I'm supposed to be, much less what orchids I put into the society display. So I give a list to the setup group. This helps them write up the display cards and enter orchids for ribbon judging without actually having the plant 'in hand' or trying to read my faded illegible tags. And I keep a copy of the list at home just so I can double check what comes back from the show. If you've ever torn down a display you know the bedlam that occurs! Stuff can get put in different boxes, or sent home with the wrong owners, so this way I'm know right away if I have to get on the phone and find out who went home with my prize Paph. sanderianum -

NOT!

But whatever you do, remember that this is fun! There's no stressing allowed!"

As for me, I suggest, from sad personal experience, that you double tag, all plants that you enter to prevent losing a tag in transit or at the show. In the American Orchid Society Bulletin of February 1985, Ed Wright gave some tips to "Really Tie One On" (p. 168) To prevent L.L.'s (plants with lost labels), he makes some suggestions which I have summarized:

1. Use a good NEW tag that is big and sturdy- 5" by 5/8". Old tags get brittle.
2. Write on the dull side of the tag, not the shiny one.
3. Dip the tag in a glass of water to which a little dishwashing detergent has been added and write with a No. 2 pencil only. This makes a nice permanent image.
4. Stick the tags in the pots at an angle. It makes it harder to fall out.
5. Double tag all your plants. Use a single-hole puncher on one tag, thread a tie through it and wrap it around the plant itself. Stick the other one in at an angle.
6. Always check that the tag is present and at an angle after you have watered or repotted. This "early warning system" will tell you that the label is missing while you have a chance of finding it.
7. Write down what you have brought to the show and any information that you would be devastated to lose if the tag falls out, which it probably will not, but still...

Well, now you have, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Preparing Orchids For Shows and Exhibition--and MORE". Hope to see you AND your orchids at the show!

## Bob Gordon: A Phal Genius Speaks

I went to the fabulous South Coast Plaza Show "Fascination of Orchids" and my poor husband could not see out the back window for all the flowers on the way back. It is not a sickness; it is an addiction. However, the highlight of the show for me was a talk by Bob Gordon, phalaenopsis genius, on everything you need to know to grow phalaenopsis orchids. It was so good that I have asked him to speak to us in 2003. He said he would! Just need to set an exact date...I think many of his cultural tips would apply to all sorts of orchids, and he is so funny, wise, and extemporaneous that everyone would just love him as I did. I wrote down his pearls of wisdom and thought you might like to have them, too. Phals make a great plant to grow for beginners since they bloom for three months or so, and he said that they can live forever (maybe in HIS house...)

There are five important things to consider for orchid growth: light, humidity, water and fertilizer, temperature, and air movement. He recommended 10 per cent of full sunlight, direct but filtered, for at least six hours a day, preferably on the southeast side of the house. If growing under lights, that translate to 1000 foot candles, a lower-light plant. (Full sunlight yields 10,000 foot candles). If growing under lights, you can grow them under two four-foot long fluorescent lights (grow lights) placed four to six inches above the phals. If growing under a HID light of 250 watts, you can place them 30 inches under the light for eight to nine hours. A light above your desk will probably only give 75 foot candles which is not enough. Use a light meter to make sure you have enough light to make the plant bloom. When getting too much light, white-flowering phal leaves get more yellow and pink-flowering phal leaves turn darker. Fans will keep orchids the right temperature even if you make a mistake. AND never, never leave your orchids sitting in a parked car.

Make sure the leaf does not get too hot. Touch the leaf. It should be just tepid, not warm. Watch burning on a window sill. Dirty windows, he said, make a great heat and light filter. Be dirty!! It is natural for the bottom leaf to yellow and die in two to four years. If the plant loses one leaf at a time, it is okay. After the phal blooms once, you can cut the spike down to a node one time if it is a big, healthy plant, and it will bloom again. Don't let it keep blooming. He said, "How would you like to be pregnant all the time?!" Two blooms on a spike are enough.

He suggested watering by the weight of the pot. Lift an empty plastic pot. Then fill it with a very wet wash cloth and lift that. Then squeeze out the wash cloth, put it back in the pot, and lift it again. You want to water when the pot feels like the wash cloth has been squeezed out. Old potting media holds more water than new potting media so vary your watering time with how old the media is. Old media gets watered less; new media gets watered more. He said he waters every four days on average. If you use New Zealand Moss, change the moss every six to eight months and don't water it too much. Small fir bark needs to be changed in less than a year, and coarse bark can be changed every 18 months. He suggests spraying the plant for repotting, roots and all, with a dilute solution of  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Physan 20 (a disinfectant) in a gallon of water, more dilute than the label suggests. He likes to bury all the roots. An especially good suggestion is to drill extra holes in your pot to allow good drainage. If you do this and put some larger bark in the bottom, Bob thinks styrofoam is unnecessary.

Bob said that any old fertilizer will do according to label directions. Vary them. Orchids only get "bird poop" (that is a quote) and they don't get different kinds of poop at different times of year. They are not fussy. Any bird poop substitute will do, about a teaspoon in a gallon every watering. However, he hates Osmokote.

Some other tips included making sure that water does not sit in the crown of the phal and watering early in the day to prevent pseudomonas cattleya, crown rot and make sure there is plenty of air movement to prevent heat buildup and disease. Fans, lots of fans, more when it is hot, are another excellent suggestions.

Phals like the same temperatures as people like, 50-85 degrees and like a sharp drop in temperature in the winter to trigger a spike. He thinks that worries the phal and makes it bloom. He thinks a little stress scares the plant into blooming. Really.

Bob Gordon is a great speaker and his book, Culture of the Phalaenopsis Orchid, Revised, is just wonderful. Get it!

