

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 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

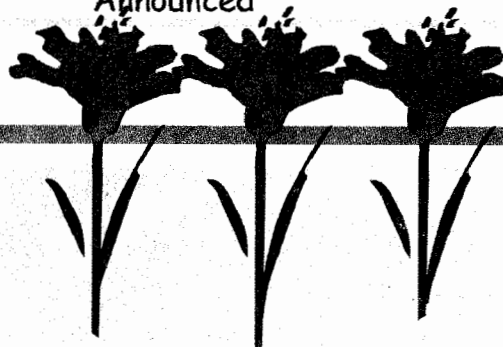
CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT
CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY
DIANA SMITH- TREASURER

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
Liz Leone- Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian
Clarice Dean- Trip Chairman
John Haydukavitch-Video Chief
Shelly North-Classic Club Apparel Chairlady

March 2, 2003	Diana Smith "Pests and Diseases"
April 6, 2002	Matt Swift, Swift's Orchids, on "Equitant Oncidium"
May 4, 2003	Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids, "Mounted Orchids"
June 1, 2003	Nick Burnett on "Seven Ways to Kill an Orchid"
July 6, 2003	Virtual Greenhouse Tour
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"
 May 2, 2004 Norman Fang, Owner of Norman's Orchids
 June 6, 2004 Glen Decker, Owner Piping Rock Orchids, "Phragmipedium"
 November 7, 2004 The Further Exploits of Bill Bergstro
 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 and Dick Blitz of Exotic Orchids of Maui to speak on the orchids of Hawaii in 2004. I am making contact with a photographer to speak on photographing orchids. We keep trying to get the best!!

I went to the circus when I was a little girl, and there were so many things going on in all the rings I didn't know where to look first!! Our meeting on February 2 was like that, a fun-filled riot of flowers, food and friendship that was just wonderful. Dr. Harold Koopowitz, author of *Orchids and Their Conservation*, presented an amusing and intelligent slide lecture of the illegal paphiopedilum trade, shocking us with the information that possession of an illegal plant could result in a fine of \$25,000 A PLANT!! (Because conservation is such an important issue, I have written a little article at the end of the newsletter on ten things that we can do to save our beloved orchids.)

We had 75 members at the meeting, a record, and welcomed new members, Sandra Swan and Christine De La Cruz. Our surge in membership must be due to all the advertising the Eileen Mckyton is doing!! We were glad to see Dan Hawley at the meeting, recovering nicely after his recent hospitalization. We enjoyed the great food provided by Leslie Doyle, Ann Shanklin, Jeri Lee, and Carol Siegel. Dan Vong and Harold Koopowitz sold great plants, we made \$85 on our raffle, and Tex Severance "gurued" on our many show and tell plants.

Valentine gifts were distributed to all the members, thanks to the work of Clarice Dean, lovely little packages of fertilizer in heart-imprinted pouches. Clarice chose this after speaking to a distributor of STEM who thought this would be a cheap, safe and effective way to supply micronutrients. Although it

says it is Miracle Gro, it is made by Peters for soilless mixes and has micronutrients in it. If you look closely you can see the Nutricote in it. By the way, Dan Vong sells Nutricote and will bring some in small bags to the next meeting. He adds a tsp or two to the mix every 2 ½ months to supplement his Jerry's Gro nutrients. Anyway, thanks to Clarice for her time and effort. We just would like everyone to be aware that plants need micronutrients, too, not just nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

Speaking of time and effort, thanks to Diana Smith who ran off Mentor Packets for new members to help them get started. This is just the beginning of our program for new members to help them get up to speed. Thanks, Diana and the members who volunteered to be Mentors.

Members flocked to Shelly North's poster display presenting the gorgeous T-shirts, golf shirts, hats, aprons, and totes with club art and logos. You must order your apparel at the next meeting or call Shelly (889-6190) to order. We will not be ordering extra shirts. This is a one-time sale, and your stuff will be delivered to you at the April meeting. Be sure to order these fun, quality, and inexpensive items. All items must be paid for in full by March 5. You will be impressed with the high quality of the shirts—and the club is making \$3 on each item, and they are still dirt-cheap. Below are the items, sizes, and prices:

T-shirts, short sleeve black, white, gold, red and purple with silk screen cattleya orchids S M XL 2X \$9

Golf shirts maroon, yellow, white and navy with contrasting embroidery M L XL 2X \$12.50

Totes 21x15x5 natural and red silk screen cattleyas \$7

Potting apron with pocket silk screen art \$9

Baseball cap beige with navy brim or denim, embroidered \$8

Hats with embroidered hatband \$10

We are very grateful to Shelly for the gorgeous artwork, striking poster, and time and energy in putting this all together. How lucky we are to have this lady in our club and willing to work for us!!

I told members about the letter the Board and I wrote to Steve Wynn suggesting the benefits of his sponsoring an orchid show in 2005 to celebrate the opening of Le Reve. I have sent him a newsletter and invited him to our

meetings. We really think that a classy orchid show at his classy hotel would be a great idea, and we all know how much he loves orchids. We shall await his answer with excitement.

The cookbook project to benefit the homeless is almost complete, We have lowered the price of the cookbooks to \$7, and we only have a few left so be sure to get one before they are all gone. We will be proud to have Jeri Lee present our check to the Catholic Charities Crisis Intervention Center. Good work, guys!!

Liz Leone reports that more and more members are joining our free library, I donated "Orchids and Their Conservation" as well as the "Orchid Hunter" video to our library. Remember we have MANY old issues of Orchid Digests and Orchids magazine which are priceless and loaded with information. Our library is first-rate. The best way to learn to grow orchids is to READ.

At our meeting March 2, our very own Treasurer Diana Smith, will be presenting a slide talk on "Insects and Diseases". We are grateful to Diana for preparing this very important topic. We should have books on Insects and Diseases for sale. Bring your pest and insect problems (but NOT your pests and insects).

We also will be having a segment on "Favorite Orchid Things" in which we encourage members to discuss their favorite nurseries, products, plants, solutions, and such. I will print them all up in the next newsletter. Thanks in advance to Terry Wilsey, Connie Yap and Steve Ninemire for preparing the snacks for the next meeting.

The talented and generous Leslie Doyle will be hosting the Spring Plant Sale at her home at 5910 Sheila Avenue (658-7585) on Saturday, March 22 from 9-4. Clarice Dean will be chairing this event, and we will sell orchids, annuals, and supplies. Be sure to stop by. There will be wonderful flowers and vegetables for sale from other societies, and you will have a lot of fun. We made \$600 on this event last year. Mike and Joni Sielaff, Anne Murphy, Grace Takahashi and Jeri Lee have volunteered to set up on Friday afternoon. So far, Clarice Dean and Steve Ninemire are selling in the morning and Marsha Hawley and Ann Shanklin are selling in the afternoon.

We will also be taking part in the CCSN Spring in the Desert Event at the Desert Garden Center on the same day. We need some kind folk to man the information

booth in the morning. Jean Gordon and Liz Leone have volunteered in the afternoon.

Don't forget to start grooming your plants for the Easter at the Cal show at the California Hotel April 18-20, We put in a display and have AOS judging with the Torrance Cymbidium Society. More about this later!!

Following the newsletter is a poem by Sue Fordyce, which she kindly allowed me to reprint. There is also an article I have written on orchid conservation and a question and answer from Orchids, Limited on potting plants in spike- something for everyone. See you at the meeting March 2. Stay safe and well. Keep blooming!
Love, Carol 254-4168 growlove@att.net

TEN WAYS TO PLAY A PART IN ORCHID CONSERVATION BY CAROL SIEGEL

Maimonides, the famous 13th Century rabbi and philosopher, said that knowledge possessed was of great value but that knowledge shared was priceless. Dr. Harold Koopowitz shared his priceless knowledge about orchid conservation with us at our last meeting but just knowing that orchids are in danger leaves us feeling sad, frustrated, and powerless. What can WE do to help preserve orchids? We can't buy a cloud forest or change the laws in a foreign country or start a preserve. However, there are small things that we as members of an orchid society can do that will make a difference. Below, with ideas from *Orchids and Their Conservation* by Dr. Koopowitz, are ten things you can do to help.

1. DON'T BUY YOUR PLANTS FROM NURSERIES THAT SELL ILLEGALLY-OBTAINED JUNGLE PLANTS.

How can you tell? They often advertise "jungle-collected plants". People even proudly tell you!! Ask the dealer about the origin of the plants. Species that are on the CITES (endangered species) Appendix should not be purchased unless they are nursery-propagated. ASK! (Nursery-propagated means an increase in the number of plants from an original stock and not just dividing a jungle plant.)

Jungle plants are not the best for the hobby grower, anyway. They are often weaker than nursery-propagated stock. They must recover from root damage and are often subdivided into such small divisions that they take years to flower again. The quality of the flowers is quite poor, and very few are of award quality. Nursery-raised plants have already adjusted to growing in "captivity" and have much more of a chance for success with the hobby grower. Leave jungle plants where they belong- in the jungle. Over-collecting has led to the collection of every last *Paphiopedilum druryi* and *Phalaenopsis micholitzii* from local wild populations.

2. COLLECT SOME SPECIES

Species are the kinds of orchids that grow wild in the jungle. Koopowitz says that there is some evidence that 25% of all orchid species in the jungle are already extinct. The species that are in our little collections may be the only source remaining of these precious plants. Leave a little space in your collection

for species. Give away a cattleya hybrid and make room for some cattleya species. Cattleya species, for example, extremely easy to grow and very beautiful. Dr. Koopowitz suggests making room for some "ugly ducklings", too, some less showy species that others may not be saving. Little pleurothallids are not widely grown, and their forests in America are disappearing. They offer charms and rewards of their own, and growing "uncommon" plants can be very rewarding. Some day, you may have one of the few plants of a species that has gone extinct. I have a *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* which is now extinct in the wild, and I guard it as a caretaker.

How do you know if something is a species? Ask the dealer. Look on the tag. The first word will be capitalized and will be the genus, and the second word will be uncapitalized and will be the species. Species will not have the plants used in the cross listed after it. Read and find out about species. Our library has many free fine books.

3. PROPAGATE SOME SPECIES

If you have some species, try to propagate your plant. Crossing your plant with itself by placing the pollinia on the female part, stigma, usually results in a weak offspring, so try to cross it with another of the same species. If you find another plant in bloom, beg some pollen from the owner (!!) and store it until YOUR plant blooms and place it on the female part. Pollen can be stored for a long time. Put some silica gel in a screw top jar and make a simple pollen bank or even put it in a twist of paper and store it in the refrigerator. You can also buy TWO plants and then cross them. You can donate seedpods to the society and have a knowledgeable member grow them.

One of the most interesting websites is the Meyers Conservatory site (<http://troymeyers.com>). Don't know much about propagating your species? Don't know a flask from a flash? Enter this fascinating site. It will tell you absolutely everything you need to know to propagate and will answer all your questions. If you send them sufficient species seed, good photos and good collection information, they will give you a free flask. Subsequent flask are \$22.50 apiece and are sold to you or the public. Most intriguing, excess seed is donated to the Orchid Seedbank Project which is operated by Aaron Hicks. Log on to the site for more information.

Another way to propagate species is to divide them. The more people who own a piece of a species in a society, the greater the chance that the plant will survive. Divide your plant and bring one piece to a meeting and donate it to a raffle, sell it in a silent auction, or give it away. The Torrance Cymbidium Society does this and have distributed many species at s. If you kill your part of your plant, someone else will have a piece to give back to you some other time. Bring a piece of your species to a meeting and help conserve it.

4. PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCIES IN YOUR GREENHOUSE IN YOUR ABSENCE

The American Orchid Society has a new program to deal with power outages, equipment failure, and glass breakage when the grower is absent, and the collection is in the care of a non-orchidist friend. If you go to the American Orchid Society Website (www.orchidweb.org) and open the AOS Conservation and Research section, you can download the new Emergency Care Contact Card. It will give you a sense of security to know that your orchid caretaker has someone to call to help when your orchid collection is in danger. Many of us unknowingly have rare or endangered orchids in our own collections, and conserving our collection will conserve these orchids. A copy of this emergency card is included at the end of this little article. Make sure that your emergency contact has AGREED to help with your emergency!!

5. MARK ALL SPECIES WITH A SPECIAL TAG

In case of an emergency, you or your orchid caretaker should be alerted to save valuable plants first. If you have hundreds of plants, you or they won't want to hunt for special plants on faded tags while searching with a flashlight. Mark all your rare species with a YELLOW tag or brightly colored label and post a sign to rescue all YELLOW-tagged plants first.

6. MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR ORCHIDS IN THE EVENT OF ILLNESS OR DEATH

What if you get sick? What if you lose interest in orchids? What if, Heaven forbid, you die? Who will take care of your plants? Who will inherit them? Species in private hands are a valuable treasure, and you should decide who will get your plants in these cases. Koopowitz notes that they represent a half billion years of evolution and deserve our respect. If you get sick or go away, Jane Green (255-3648) has a service to take care of plants as does Cliff Wood (656-1206). If you lose interest in orchids, call one of us on your member list or me (254-4168), and we will make arrangements to take your plants, no questions asked. Decide if you want to give your plants to your kids, your friend, a member,

or the society in the event of your passing. Make sure you make a little written note and inform your family of your wishes. Many of us have THOUSANDS of dollars tied up in our orchids. Give it some thought.

7. DON'T COLLECT WILD ORCHIDS

We have three kinds of wild orchids in Las Vegas, *Epipactis gigantea* in Red Rock, *Habenaria dilatata* and *Habenaria sparsiflora* in the Mt. Charleston area. We have gone to visit the ones in Red Rock, and we all had to resist the temptation to take one of the magnificent orchids home. *Epipactis* grows in a tiny area here, and it is a good example of how just a few souvenirs would have ended the orchid stand.

I went to a botanical garden in Newfoundland where there were several signs indicating *Cypripedium*, but there were no orchids behind the signs. The gardener said that they had stopped replacing the slipper orchids because they would be gone by that evening!! I once did a talk on the 33 kinds of orchids of California, and one member noted that a lot of the flowers were rather inconspicuous or drab. Those were the only ones that people had not picked to death!! If you travel and see orchids, take pictures not plants.

8. PUT IN A CONSERVATION DISPLAY AT ORCHID SHOWS AND SALES

The American Orchid Society has a fine, free display on orchid conservation issues that societies can request for shows. We could put one in at the show at the Cal and educate the public on conservation issues. Educating the public as to the problems of orchids in the wild is a big step to having people care about them.

9. JOIN ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT CONSERVATION

Orchids grow in a specific environment and anything we can do to promote wild places will help conserve orchids. Join the American Orchid Society. They have a very active conservation program and your membership will help support it. They support and reward society conservation efforts. Join the Orchid Digest, Nature Conservancy, the Audobon Society, The Friends of the Wetlands, Sierra Club, The Archeological Conservancy and other groups that work to preserve habitats.

10. ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND RAISE FUNDS AS A SOCIETY AND CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The Greater New York Orchid Society raises money each year and supports projects. One is the Children's Rainforest Alliance to educate school kids in Costa Rica about the environment by purchasing computers. The San Diego Orchid Society has donated \$64,000 over the last 15 years for conservation projects in countries from Australia to Peru. We don't have a conservation effort, and I think this is an area where we can make a difference, even if only in a small way. This year, let's begin to make a difference. Let's become players in the great orchid conservation challenge.

Reference

Koopowitz, Harold. *Orchids and Their Conservation*. Timber Press: Portland, Oregon. 2001.

EMERGENCY CARE CONTACTS FOR ORCHID RESCUE

When this orchid collection is in jeopardy please contact:

NAME	PHONE
NAME	PHONE
NAME	PHONE



Conservation locally helps conservation globally
Developed by the AOS Conservation Committee and provided as a service by:
The American Orchid Society
16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351
(561)404-2000
E-mail: TheAOS@aos.org + Website: orchidweb.org

ORCHIDS ANON

Susan Fordyce, Fordyce Orchids

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*I've found me a program
Called Orchids Anon
Who help folks like me
Who are inexplicably drawn-*

*My orchid addiction
Is a powerful force
It's thrown my sane little life
Way off it's true course*

*I was an innocent victim-
At a party with friends
I was offered a bulb-
And my sad story begins...*

*At K Mart I found
A bargain or two-
I began filling the windows
And a few more in the loo...*

*I became hooked on orchid websites
And my poor spouse was dismayed
There was just No More Room!
(and our relationship frayed)*

*I began to pay just cash
(No more credit to trail)
then I'd resolve to abstain
but my fortitude failed*

*I met orchid friends like me
Who would take me on binges-
I'd have to purge my collection
To make more room 'round the fringes*

*By then I had taken
To selling off my possessions
So I could buy more darn orchids
To feed my obsessions*

*-A Cuisinart here-
A lawnmower there-
Before I could stop myself
The poor house was stripped bare*

*Interventions were tried
By family and friends
I felt so out of control
I must make amends*

*So I checked myself in
And the withdrawal was a pain-
I couldn't believe I was here
In the home of the orchid insane*

*I've done the 12 steps
And 12 more for good measure-
But it's so gosh darn hard
To give up what I treasure*

*I catch myself searching
Through forbidden magazines
To search for those centerfolds
To fulfill my orchid dreams*

*So tell me my friend
Between you and me
Could you spare me a bulb or two
Of your Coelogyne?*

REPOTTING ORCHIDS IN SPIKE OR BLOOM

Orchids, Limited (www.orchidweb.com) is a wonderful site with a very intelligent Question and Answer section, FAQ (and wonderful plants for sale, too!) Below, with permission from Orchids, Limited, is a very good answer to the question of when you can repot your orchid. Copyright 2002.Orchids, Limited.(From my own experience, paphiopedilum and phragmipedium don't mind being repotted even when they are in full bloom, something not mentioned in the answer below).

Can I repot my orchid when it is in spike or blooming?

Yes and no. It really depends on the condition of the plant and if it is necessary or not. First of all, we must confirm the difference between the phrases "in spike", "in bud" and "in bloom".

- If an orchid is "in spike", it has produced a stem that will eventually form buds and flower.
- If an orchid is "in bud", flower buds have emerged from the spike and could be anywhere from a few days to a month to bloom. Some orchids form the spike with buds emerging almost simultaneously.
- If an orchid is "in bloom", the flowers have emerged and are blooming.

If your orchid is in spike, you can repot as long as you are careful not to damage roots while repotting. There may be a couple of reasons that you want to repot while your orchid is in spike. These same reasons can apply to plants in bud or bloom.

1. The plant could be in drastic need of repotting. If this is the case, carefully clean away the old medium and try to avoid damaging roots. If the plant has a very poor root system to start out with and it is clearly suffering from stress, it is best recommended that you remove the flower spike as it is draining energy from the plant that could be used to help it recover.
2. You might want to repot it into a decorative pot etc. before the plant blooms. If this is the case, to avoid shocking the plant, simply remove the plant and set it into the new pot without removing the old potting medium. This way you will avoid shocking the plant and it will continue its flowering schedule as usual.
3. If your orchid is in bud, you can repot it for the same reasons as if it was in spike. However, the risk of some (or all) buds being shocked and falling off is high. Orchids are much more forgiving if you repot when the buds have just formed and are "tight". For the most part, you should avoid repotting when in bud if it is not necessary.

If you repot when your plant is actually blooming, it is normal for the flowers to drop faster than normal, sometimes almost immediately. Only repot when blooming if you feel it is absolutely necessary.