GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2005 2 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE USUAL PLACE, THE NEVADGARDEN CLUB BUILDING, WASHINGTON AND TWIN LAKES. THE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN AT 1PM.

DIRECTIONS FOR ALL THE NEW PEOPLE-If you begin at Decatur and Sahara, go north on Decatur, make a right (E) on Washington, pass Valley View a few blocks, and make a right on Twin Lakes. The slump-stone building will be immediately on your left. If you get to Rancho, you have gone too far. The building is 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...

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Eileen McKyton and Dan Hawley- Welcome Desk
Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian
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Phyllis Bond, Leslie Doyle,Shelly North and Eileen McKyton- Special Events Chairmen
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Tex Severance and Mike Levin- Show and Tell Gurus
Tex 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

May 1, 2005	Dr. Joseph Arditti "Techniques Orchids Use to Survive in the Wild"
June 5, 2005	Sue Fordyce, "Sophronitis and Her Sisters/Orchid Sign Language"

July 10, 2005	SECOND SUNDAY Sheldon Takasaki, Carmela's Orchids, "Cattleyas"
August 7, 2005	Barbecue Eldine Stevens' home
September 11,2005	Doug Conkin, "Planning and Developing An Orchid Collection"
October 2, 2005	Virtual Greenhouse Tour and Pot Party
November 6, 2005	"The Adventures of Dennis D'Allesandro in Bolivia"
December 4, 2005	Sixth Annual Holiday Party
Sometime in 2006	Jim Hamilton, Petite Plaisance Nursery, "Growing Orchids Naturally"
January 8, 2006	Jason Fischer, "Orchids of Japan"
February 5, 2006	
March 5, 2006	Doug Conkin, "Integrated Pest Management"
April 2, 2006	John Salventi, "How to Grow Award Winning Plants"
May 7, 2006	Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids, "Tiny Treasures" (the Pleurothallidinae)
June 4, 2006	Fred Clarke, "Cycnoches, Mormodes, And Catasetum"
July 9, 2006	
August 6, 2006	Barbecue in Mt. Charleston
September 10, 2006	Marni Turkel, "How to Grow Orchids"
October 1, 2006	
November 5, 2006	Bill Bergstrom, "The Orchids of Mexico"
December 3, 2006	Seventh Annual Holiday Party

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Our room was packed with new people at our April meeting after all the publicity we received in March and April. We expect even more at our May meeting!! The Review Journal/Sun did a glorious full-page spread on us, and then our very own star Eileen McKyton was interviewed all about orchids for a television show in Pahrump. She also got us written up the week-end before the meeting in one of the

newspapers. An article I wrote on "Growing Orchids in the Desert" was the cover story in the Southern Nevada Home and Garden Magazine complete with pages of beautiful orchid pictures and a big plug for our club. In addition to all that, Leslie Doyle, everyone's favorite Tomato Lady, has been doing TV spots for Plant World. We are impressed!!

We welcomed new members and guests Sharon Luker, Carol Nashe, Caroline Arico, Craig and Lois Jarrett, Edith Kirshbaum, Philip Potashner (husband of Carolyn Jones), Kelley and Robert Torres, Gloria Hoffman, Mark Zachman, Julie Fung, J.J. Francish, Judith Howard, Stephen Gordon, Ping Yiu To (husband of Karen), Geraldine Silette, Pearl Anton, and Leanne Brulla. Hope I didn't forget anyone. It is a great pleasure to welcome you all and hope you get much pleasure from your orchids- and our club.

We hope Mike Levin had a great time in Paris, and that Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless loved Hawaii. We can't wait to see Carol and Ron Mendocino and find out how THEY liked Hawaii. We send our love to Jean Gordon who is recovering from a broken wrist and knee-cap (poor darling) and to Scotty Nogaim whom we hope to see soon. Our good wishes go to Dorothy Billitere, Tony's wife, for a complete recovery. We thank Christine De La Cruz, Bill Whaley, Marguerite Janes, and Linda Hirschfeld for the delicious and extravagant food at the meeting, and we thank Nita Bragg, Liz Leone, Jeannie Salles and Steve Ninemire in advance for being willing to provide May food.

We had dozens of members participate in our two spring shows, and everyone who did got a free raffle ticket. It was an extraordinary raffle table. Mike Glikbarg, our speaker, outdid himself with blooming orchids, and Tony Billitere picked up and shlepped in boxes orchids from the Treasure Island and English Florist. We were delighted that Tom Jaszewski, Master Horticulturist at the Mirage

Hotel, called and donated really beautiful orchids to our raffle. How very kind! We made over $100 on the raffle. Money we make from our raffle supports our educational programs and donations to orchid conservation causes.

As a special benefit of our participation in the Spring Flower Show, our room was really beautiful because we still had up our gorgeous orchid display from the show. Clarice Dean won Best of Show as well as Best of Show at the Easter at the Cal Show. She has generously donated her free week-end at the Cal to the club to use for our speakers. Thanks, Clarice.

Clarice does so much so graciously for the club. Clarice also bought a new book on cattleya with our library fund. She presented as the Species of the Month *Bulbophyllum laxiflorum* and distributed culture sheets. This magnificent miniature is an easy-growing epiphyte (means "grows on trees") that is found over a broad geographical area in SE Asia. It is a warm-growing creeping plant that has one-inch bulbs $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart with a single three-inch leaf. The four-inch spike produced twenty spidery crytalline white $\frac{1}{2}$ inch flowers in a spectacular starburst with a sweet smell.

Bulbophyllum is the largest genus of orchids with 1200 species over a wide geographically area. It is found in all tropical areas on earth. Many of the flowers have hinged lips that jiggle and wiggle in the slightest breeze. Although many bulbophyllum smell just fine, there is a group of them that smell like dead elephants or worse in order to attract their fly pollinators.

A special mention of the work that Terry Wilsey is doing for the club. He provides travel and hotel services to our speakers, and that is such a big help to me and them. Have travel plans? Call Terry at 731-2114. I have, and I have been very glad I did. Thanks, Terry.

Terry also represented us at the Nevada State Garden Club Meeting with Jeri Lee, the new trustee. All the clubs made up big birthday cards for the 100th anniversary of Las Vegas. Jeri, a talented artist, made ours with orchids on all sides. We have kept it and will use at in our displays. It is spectacular.

Our speaker was Mike Glikbarg, owner of Orchids of Los Osos, who did a hands-on presentation on how to grow oncidium and odontoglossum. His talk was a hit, and everyone was very involved. He answered lots of questions on growing and did a potting demonstration, too. He was really impressed with the Aussie Gold we provided for him. He made such a fuss over it that we sold out on the Aussie Gold. I have ordered forty more bags for the next meeting for those who didn't get any. As a reminder, Mike made some of these points:

1.Oncidium like high light and heat.
2.Odontoglossum like lower light and cool.
3.Any of the intergeneric hybrids (crosses between genera) with yellow in it are more heat tolerant.
4.Burrageara (cochlioda x miltonia x odontoglossum x oncidium) that has yellow in it can be grown in the house.
5.A good oncidium for beginners is Oncidium Gower Ramsey.
6.Spots on leaves may be just a genetic thing if they are only on the older leaves. Nothing to worry about.
7.Spots on newer leaves may be fungus. Check to see if the mix has broken down or if you have insects.
8.Oncidium are aphid magnets. You can spray flower with soapy water with a little cooking oil or alcohol.
9.Odontoglossum bloom year round and can bloom every six to nine months.
10.Miltonia like it cool.
11.Air movement with fans is very important.

12.If you water with regular water, make sure to leach pots thoroughly with lots of water once a month.
13.Most people don't fertilize enough. He uses one tablespoon Gro More 20-20-20 and one tablespoon seaweed per gallon at least once a month.
14.If you divide your plant, leave at least three bulbs per division.
15.Don't pot too high or too low. Pot at level of new roots. You may submerge the old bulb if the new bulb is growing higher up,
There was more, but this is the gist. I have included the excellent hand-out he gave for those who weren't at the meeting.

I was so sorry to miss the Spring Garden Walk at Aaron Schave's beautiful home in April. I had the flu. Aaron invited us all, and it is such a treat to see his magnificent home and gardens. Thanks, Aaron, for inviting us.

Dr. Joseph Arditti, author of ORCHID BIOLOGY, will be our guest speaker in May. He will speak on "Techniques Orchids Use to Survive in the Wild" with a slide presentation. It should be fascinating. Daniel Vong will provide our sale plants and raffle. It will be Cinco de Mayo, and I have gotten a security guard to protect our spots so, Lord willing, we will have plenty of places to park.

We have been invited to the Las Vegas Chrysathemum Society's Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 14 from 10-3 at our regular place,

We are hoping to arrange a field trip to look for our native orchid *Spiranthes diluviales* in Panaca which has not been seen since 1926. It is an opportunity for us to contribute to orchid conservation. Jim Coyner, whom I met when I spoke in Salt Lake, will be our leader. He is very interested in this native orchid.
Following the newsletter is an article I wrote on "In Praise of Catasetum" and an oncidium culture sheet. Love, CAROL 254-4168

In Praise of Catasetum

By Carol Siegel

They say you never forget your first orchid, and my first orchid was truly unforgettable. There used to be a nursery in town called the Orchid House, and it was there I fell in love with orchids. I walked in, and Bob Vitto, the owner, told me he had a very special orchid to show me. It was a catasetum. He told me to bend close to the flower and touch the middle. Unsuspecting, I did as I was told, and a missile shot out of the center of the flower and stuck to my nose. No amount of pulling could dislodge this thing. Such began my love affair with orchids—and with catasetum. They say the nose knows, and mine knew I had come home to the weird and wonderful world of orchids.

A WEIRD ORCHID

Of all orchids, catasetum are truly the most strange. Not only do they have spring-loaded pollinia (orchid pollen), but they have fabulous fragrance and exotic flowers. They have separate male and female flowers that look totally different. Their pseudobulbs look like fat cigars, their plants look dead for most of the winter, and their seed pods are as big as baseballs. So special!

EXPLODING POLLINIA

With about 100 species, the genus name *Catasetum* (kat-uh-SEE-tum) comes from the Greek *cata*, meaning "downward" and the Latin *seta* meaning "bristles." The male flowers have two "bristles" or appendages called "antennae" that in the male flowers extend down into the lip cavity and keep the sexual apparatus under tension. Any touch can cause an explosive release of the pollinarium that sticks to the pollinator- or in my case, the nose.

SEPARATE MALE AND FEMALE FLOWERS

Most orchid flowers are "perfect," which in the flower world means they are bisexual hemaphrodites with both functional male and female parts in every flower. Catasetum have male flowers and female flowers that look very different. Early explorers believed that the male flowers were a different species from the female flowers because they were so unlike, causing lots of confusion in describing the genus. Later, it was understood that when a catasetum blooms, it can carry all male or all female flowers, a combination of male and female flowers on one spike, or occasionally even regular bisexual flowers (which are usually sterile).

It is believed that female flowers will be produced when the plant is given lots of light, and male flowers will be produced in shadier conditions. Female flowers of all species are amazingly similar, with a thick, fleshy hood. Male flowers are thought to be more interesting and varied and can be encouraged by moving the plants out of bright light after the pseudobulb has matured in the spring. In nature, many more male than female flowers are produced, and it seems the orchid only produces female flowers when it thinks that conditions are so good that it can invest in the expensive act of producing a big seed pod.

CATASETUM RELATIVES

Catasetum belong to a subtribe called Catasetinae which has four relatives that grow a lot like catasetum. Much of what is said about catasetum applies to these, too. *Clowesia* has a few species that have bisexual flowers which can fling their pollinia, too. *Cycnoches*, the swan orchid, has long-lasting male and female flowers which bear little resemblance to one another. *Mormodes*, the goblin orchid, has amazing separate male and female flowers, too. Finally,

Dressleria has some bisexual species that fling pollinia after the anther cap is lifted.

CATASETUM SEX

In a mature male flower, the entire column is a trap waiting to be sprung. Male bees from miles away are attracted by the fragrance of a waxlike, musky substance in the lip. It contains aromatic hydrocarbons and volatile terpenes (strong smells!!) which mesmerize the male bees who land and fight each other off in the frenzy to collect this fragrant oil. They will later make a potent aphrodisiac to attract female bees. In the excitement, one of them bumps into the antennae and the pollinarium is thrown forward at speeds of ten feet per second. The pollinia do a complete somersault and land behind the head of the frightened bee. Inebriated from the waxes and wanting more, he drunkenly avoids the male flowers that have frightened him, and gorges on the waxes inside the female flower hood, depositing the pollinia. The seed pod forms in a few months and contains at least a million seeds.

CATASETUM LEAVES

The great thing about catasetum leaves is that if they become spotted, blemished or disfigured by insects, they will probably fall off at the end of the growing season, and you will have another chance! No one will know about your lack of experience and poor fortune, because next year you will get a whole brand new set of leaves. The leaves have parallel folds like a fan (plicate) and love lots of light.

CATASETUM PSEUDOBULBS

Catasetum have big, long-lasting moisture-storing organs called pseudobulbs. Although they come in lots of different shapes, they mostly look like fat cigars. They are an adaptation to the dry season

that they find in nature in places like Mexico, El Salvador and Brazil, and allow the plant to survive with little water throughout the winter. Some have even said that catasetum hate water, but they just hate too much water at the wrong time.

The pseudobulbs are covered by leaf sheaths which when young and green are connected to the leaves. After the leaf falls, the sheaths become dry and papery, often with sharp spikes to deter foraging animals. Remove the sheaths to prevent being stuck and to avoid insects from hiding within.

THE GROWTH CYCLE OF CATASETUM

Unlike cattleya and phalaenopsis, most catasetum lose their leaves after the growing season. They have a unique period of rest or dormancy which corresponds to the dry season in nature. Once a pseudobulb and its leaves show signs of yellowing, it will not produce any more leaves, but may eventually put out a new growth from its base. The old pseudobulb will remain a source of reserve for the total plant for a long time, but eventually it will shrivel and become soft and should be removed. During the dormant period, the plant should be given a minimum of water until a new growth emerges and is two inches long. Then, the grower should spring into action with regular watering and fertilizing as the drama of regeneration quickly begins. Sometimes, the flower spike appears simultaneously with the new growth in spring, sometimes it appears in summer or fall. There are even some species that bloom long after they lose their leaves.

THE DORMANT PERIOD

When dormant, a catasetum may be treated in one of three ways:
1. Leave it in its pot and potting matreial and place it somewhere where it won't get its regular watering. Give it only enough water to prevent shriveling of the pseudobulb.

2.Remove it from its pot, throw out potting material, put it back in the pot naked with its tag and water with your other plants,
3.Take the plant out of its pot with its tag, store it somewhere dry and sprinkle occasionally.

Arthur Holst, author of the excellent book THE WORLD OF CATASETUM, uses the first method since he says that it preserves the old roots. I tried the second method this year, recommended by one of our speakers, and it also worked well. I watered the pseudobulbs just once in a while, and they are doing very well with their first flush of green growth. In any event, water must not be withheld completely. The period of dormancy can last from several weeks to several months, interrupted as the first exciting green growth arises on the otherwise dead-looking plant.

REPOTTING

Catasetum grow best with minimal root disturbance and really like to be mounted. If you grow with a pot, Charles Marden Fitch recommends putting a pot that has been outgrown into a larger pot filled with some growing medium. This "pot within a pot" allows him to leave the plant undisturbed for 3-4 years. Repot when the new growth and roots are just starting. You can do conventional bark or sphagnum potting, but Arthur Holst recommends putting a wood mount vertically against the far wall of a pot, attaching the plant to the mount with the base one inch above the medium in the pot, and letting the plant decide whether to grow up the mount or into the pot. !! He also uses another unconventional method by only putting very large (2 to 3 inch) chunks of wood, bark and charcoal in a plastic pan, net or clay pot which he says retains some water yet allows a lot of air without smothering the roots. He also likes growing in wooden baskets, propped up by some wood and bark chunks and chips.

FERTILIZING

Everyone has a different opinion on fertilizer just as everyone has a different opinion of vitamin supplements. Don't fertilize during the dormant period, but fertilize with a weak formula every time the plants are watered after the new growth is 2 inches tall. Holst likes to add nutrient solution containing silicon from time to time since he believes it helps resist disease and fungi.

LIGHT

Most catasetum are sun-loving plants and grow well in their native habitat in full sunlight and like humidity. They rarely grow in the deep shade of the tropical jungle. However, they need constant air movement naturally or with fans. Remember that if you decide you want male flowers, you will need to bring the plant to a more shady spot after the leaves are formed. You may still not get males, but it will, supposedly, up the odds. (Personally, I like girl flowers...)

INSECTS

The major pests are spider mites and mealy bugs which can be controlled with 70-90 % rubbing alcohol sprayed directly on the insects. Pull the dry pseudobulb sheaths off to prevent insects from hiding. Ants will often make a nest in the plant transplanting mealy bugs with them. Orange Guard will deter ants and a plastic ant-bait disc on top of the potting mix will kill them. You can always submerge the plants for 30 minutes in a bucket of water, and the ants will drown.

Among the vendors of catasetum are Carter and Holmes of South Carolina, Chuck's Orchids of Jacksonville, Florida, Carolina Orchids of South Carolina, H&R Nurseries of Hawaii, JEM Orchids of Florida, Sherwood Forest Orchids of Florida, and Ken West Orchids of Hawaii. Most vendors sell some catasetum. Look them up on the AOS website (www.orchidweb.org).

Try growing some catasetum. You will love it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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"CAT-E-WHAT?", http://www.orchidjudges.org/docs/txt003.html
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Holst, Arthur W. THE WORLD OF CATASETUM. Timber Press. Portland, Oregon, 1999.

A brief outline of our method for growing

Odontoglossum/ Oncidium Alliance

Orchids

Found mainly between the latitudes of 15 degrees north of the equator and 20 degrees south, from central Mexico to Peru, the natural occurring species of this wonderful orchid family are scattered throughout the Andes.

Temperature

Most types prefer a day time temperature from 65 to 80 degrees, with night time temperatures down to the 50 to 65 degree range. Oncidiums and Oncidium hybrids grow at the warm end of the range, Odontoglossum and their hybrids prefer the cooler temps.

Light

Most "Odont" types prefer soft filtered light from 1000 to 1500 foot candles. Oncidium types prefer much brighter conditions, 1500 to 3500 foot candles. Leaves should be a bright green, dark green leaves indicate to little light, reddish green to much light. Miltonias have a pale green leaf.

Humidity

"Odonts" enjoy moist air, ideal humidity is between 55% and 75% with between 40% and 50% considered minimum. As temperatures increase so should the humidity, placing the pots in a shallow pan filled with pebbles and half filled with water helps. Morning misting is also helpful, and good ventilation is also important.

Water

Their natural habitat is moist and cool. Most types prefer to be moist but not soggy. They require more water when the new growth appears and less once the bulb has formed. Water should be cut back in the winter. Foliage should be dry at night, don't use chemically softened water, and never allow the bottom of the pot to stand in water.

Fertilizer

We recommend fertilizing with Gro-More 20-20-20, twice a month during time of active growth, and once a month at other times. We use the Gro-More at full strength, and flush thoroughly between feedings to rinse out accumulated salts.

Repotting

"Odonts" and their hybrids should be repotted every two years. The optimum time is when the new growth is 2 to 3 inches tall and new roots have begun to appear. Odonts have roots of a fine wiry texture, and require an open potting mix. At ***Orchids of Los Osos*** we use a mixture of 3/4 fine fir bark and 1/4 coarse perlite. Amounts of sphagnum, and coarse charcoal can also be added to suit ones particular growing conditions. After removing the old mix and dead roots the plant can be repotted with the base of the new growth no deeper that 1/2 inch in the new mix. With good culture the plant can produce and complete its annual growth cycle within nine months. Consequently, a well grown plant will bloom twice in 18 months.

I hope you find this care guide helpful
in growing these attractive orchids

(OVER)

1614 Sage Avenue, Los Osos, California 93402 • 805/ 528-0181

The Odontoglossum / Oncidium Alliance

and related intergeneric hybrids

Odontoglossums, Oncidiums, Brassia, and Miltonia are some of the more commonly known members of the new world subtribe Oncidiinae. Found mainly between the latitudes of 15 degrees north of the equator and 20 degrees south, from central Mexico to Peru, the natural occurring species of this wonderful orchid family are scattered throughout the Andes. Some species are found as far north as the Caribbean Islands and Florida, while others occur as far south as Paraquay, found growing mainly between the altitudes of 5,000 and 9,000 feet, although some varieties have been encountered as high as 12,000 feet. Early explorers found the Guatamalan highlands in Central America and the Colombian Andes in northern South America rich with orchid species of this type.

In 1898 the first hybrid, between Odm. crispum and Odm. harryanum was made in Belgium by C.Vuylsteke, this would open the door for some of the most beautiful of all orchid hybrids, the result now of over ninety years of breeding. Today, the name Odontoglossum has become a term loosely used to cover a whole multitude of hybrids with a pedigree so complex that new intergeneric names have had to be found. Some of the genera with which Odonto- glossums have frequently been crossed, include, Oncidium, Miltonia, and Cochlioda, producing such man made genera as Wilsonara, Vuylstekeara, Odontocidium, Colmanara and scores of others.

Generations of breeding have produced a fantastic range of hybrids in every combination of color, shape and size imaginable. These combinations of Odontoglossum, Oncidium, and related types have produced "Odont" hybrids of a wide range of cultural flexibility. For this reason the Odontoglossum / Oncidium Alliance and the myriad of intergeneric "Odont" hybrids are becoming some of the most popular orchid genera for the hobbyist to grow. With correct culture they are relatively easy to bloom, producing large long lasting sprays of exquisite flowers.

Cultural Requirements

At Orchids of Los Osos, we have devoted a large amount of greenhouse space, time and energy to "Odonts". Our collections not only includes some wonderful species, but seedlings from the McBean and Radcliff collections in England, and some striking mericlones from Rod McCellans, Holland and Hawaii. A list of the types we grow would include; Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Odontocidium, McCellenara, Miltonia (both Brazilian and Colombian types), Miltidium, Vuylstekera and Wilsonara. Visitors to the nursery often comment as to how well grown our "Odonts" are, this is a result of our coastal micro-climate, excellent water and our culture. Here in California "Odonts" are wonderful indoor, greenhouse and in some cases rewarding outdoor growers. We hope this cultural information will help you grow award quality orchids.

"Odont" Intergeneric Hybrids

Brassidium (Brsdm.)
Brassia x Oncidium

Burrageara (Burr.)
Cochlioda x Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Oncidium

Colmanara (Colm.)
Miltonia x Oncidium x Odontoglossum

Miltassia (Mtssa.)
Miltonia x Brassia

Miltonidium (Mtdm.)
Miltonia x Oncidium

Odontioda (Oda.)
Odontoglossum x Cochlioda

Odontocidium (Odcdm.)
Odontoglossum x Oncidium

Odontonia (Odtna.)
Odontoglossum x Miltonia

Wilsonara (Wils.)
Cochlioda x Odontoglossum x Oncidium

Vuylstekeara (Vuyl.)
Cochlioda x Miltonia x Odontoglossum

(OVER)