

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015
1PM LIVE PIANO MUSIC
2 PM MEETING
RAINBOW LIBRARY

Oct 4, 2015 Diana Smith "Pests"
November 1, 2015 Cathy Loftfield
"Orchids of the New World"
Dec 6, Holiday Party Carol's house
January 10, 2016 Mary Gerritsen
"The Orchids of Borneo"
Feb 7 Fred Clarke "Catasetum"
March 6, 2016 Guillermo Salazar
"African Orchids"
April 3 Greenhouse Tour Dan Mumau
Christina Delacruz, Jeannie Salles
Native Orchid Walk
May 1, 2016 Art Chadwick
"Large-Flowered Cattleyas"
June 5 Ron Parsons "Orchids of
Indonesia"
July 10, 2016 Mark Romansky
"Forgotten Orchids"
August 7 Cathy L "Orchids of Old
World"
Sept 11 Diana "What Kind of Orchid"
Oct 2, Carol Siegel "10 Ways to Kill
an Orchid"
Nov 6 Steve Frowine "Growing
Under Lights and In the Home"

DIANA SMITH "DEALING WITH PESTS"
Our very own Diana Smith, a retired teacher of the gifted (you know, like US), will be doing a power point presentation on everyone's least favorite thing in the world, PESTS. Easy to kill but impossible to get rid of, pests are the bane of the existence of even the best grower. Growing for 40 years, Diana is an expert and will clue us in to the best ways to deal with pests. I have ordered cattleyas in bud from Sunset Valley Orchids for sale, Fred Clarke's nursery. A fall Italian feast is being prepared by Cathy Loftfield, Lee Kirschbaum, Jackie Braverman, Al de Ricco and me. Steve Campbell has kindly prepared a new website and Facebook for us. He will be doing a presentation on how we can best use this new 21st-century electronic addition to our club! Thank you Steve (and Caroline, his wife).



We will be holding elections as we usually do on November 1st. The following people have expressed willingness to serve in 2016:

**President Carol Siegel
Vice President Cathy Loftfield
Secretary Mark Romansky
Treasurer Diana Smith**

Eileen McKyton, who has served with excellence since 2002, has become very busy with work and is happy to have Mark run this year. Thank you, Eileen, for your loyal service to our club.

We welcome any other member who would like to run to email me at growlove@cox.net, call me at 702 254 4168 (or any of the Board) or speak to us at the October meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING WAS GREAT FUN!

ALAN KOCH DID A WONDERFUL JOB TEACHING US HOW TO GROW IN SEPTEMBER. THANK YOU TO STEVE HOCHMAN FOR PICKING HIM UP AND BRINGING HIM TO THE AIRPORT. THANKS TO OUR FOOD TEAM MARGE REDMAN, CAROLINE CAMPBELL, INGA ROSSAN, WANDA LAFOLLETTE, CLAIRE EHRSAM, SHIRLEY KRAMER, AND DAN MUMAU/MIKE LAWLESS FOR THE WONDERFUL END-OF-SUMMER PICNIC.

A MILLION THANKS TO OLE BORRESEN TONY BILLITERE AND JOEL DAVIDSON FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT INVOLVED IN THE HOTEL PLANTS. THEY MADE \$165 FOR US!! THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THE MEETING WAS PACKED! WE ARE GETTING LOTS OF NEW MEMBERS! DON'T FORGET IF YOU ARE A GUEST, WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US! END OF YEAR SPECIAL- 2015 AND 2016 FOR ONLY \$45 INDIVIDUAL \$65 COUPLE. 2016 DUES WILL REMAIN \$30 INDIVIDUAL \$45 COUPLE. WE WELCOMED GUESTs SUSAN FETTER AND SHERRIE BROWN. HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!

CAN'T WAIT FOR CATHY LOFTFIELD'S NOV 1 TALK ON NEW WORLD ORCHIDS. SHE IS A FABULOUS PHOTOGRAPHER AND A SMART LADY, AND IT PROMISES TO BE WONDERFUL.

SO HAPPY TO SEE STEVE HOCHMAN WELL. GLAD MARK ROMANSKY IS BETTER AFTER HIS SURGERY. WE WERE THRILLED TO SEE LIZ WATERS LOOKING LOVELY AND BACK WITH US AGAIN.

HOPE JANET PIROOZSHAD ENJOYS HER TRIP TO ALASKA WITH DAN. CONGRATULATIONS TO JACKIE BRAVERMANN ON HER NEW GRANDBABY-TO-BE! HOPE JUNE CRAVENN HAD A GREAT TIME IN SRI LANKA. HOPE WANDA AND BRUCE HAVE A GREAT TIME IN CEDAR CITY. HEAR LESLIE DOYLE IS HAVING A GREAT TIME ON HER TRIP AROUND THE COUNTRY. BE SAFE.

HOPE EVERYBODY STAYS HEALTHY AND HAS FUN TIMES THIS FALL!

Bc Little Mermaid "Janet" Am/AOS, Award: Best Orchid Dan Mumau



THE SEPTEMBER BLUE RIBBON WINNERS!



Mark Romansky Name of Orchid: Lycaste Hybrid Award: Best Story



Cherie Lin Name of Orchid: *Psychopsis mendenhall* Award: Newbie

Our September winners were entered in a drawing to win a basket of orchids I will donate at the holiday party. Bring in your blooming orchid and tell your story, and you could win a blue ribbon and a basket of orchids, too. It is a fun and easy way to participate in a meeting and inspire others. You can tell us where you bought your plant, what kind of plant it is, how you grow it, your troubles and successes, how it was named, when it blooms, or why you like it—just about anything. OR you can just stand proudly and look shocked it finally bloomed. Whatever... just participate.



COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY 12:30 Dec 6th at my house (earlier than usual meeting time)

We are excited about our Holiday Party to be held at my home on Sunday, December 6th at 12:30 pm. Bring some canned goods or boxes of food for us to donate to the needy at the holidays. My house is 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive in Canyon Gate Country Club (which is opposite the Lakes) on Sahara between Durango and Ft. Apache Everybody will bring a dish- side dish, dessert, vegetable, main dish for 10-12 with serving spoons, heated and cut up if necessary. At the October meeting, we will ask individuals to sign up for prime rib, brisket, ham, pork roast, salmon, turkey, fried turkey, shrimp, etc.

I will provide paper goods, a margarita machine, champagne, drinks and wine, various food, and entertainment and 2015 club keychains. I personally will provide Michael Shane on keyboard and Carol Joyce (Mendocino) to sing. She is just wonderful. provide two orchid tattoo artists, a photo booth, a nail artist painting orchids on nails (guys, too!) , and lot of flashing, blinky toys. I am excited! As is tradition the club will have a raffle where everyone will get a blooming orchids for \$6.Remember if you have too many margaritas, we will put you in a cab and we will not let you drive. We love you! It is always the most fun, a chance for us to have fun together and celebrate another successful year. Every year people call me and ask if they can bring their mate, partner, relative or friend. SURE!! You don't have to ask! We just ask that you bring an extra dish, side dish, main dish or dessert, so that we will have enough food for the extra people who come. We sell raffle tickets to the guests as well for \$6, but our club members go into a special bucket so that they can choose first. Seems only fair... People also ask if they can have an holiday orchid reserved for them if they leave early from the party or don't come. Holiday orchids are only available when we call the raffle tickets, and you must be at the party to get one. It avoids conflict.

Those Lousy Little Suckers!

The most commonly encountered insect pests, aphids and mealybugs, are by no means the most troublesome. So we will begin with the insects that are easiest to deal with.

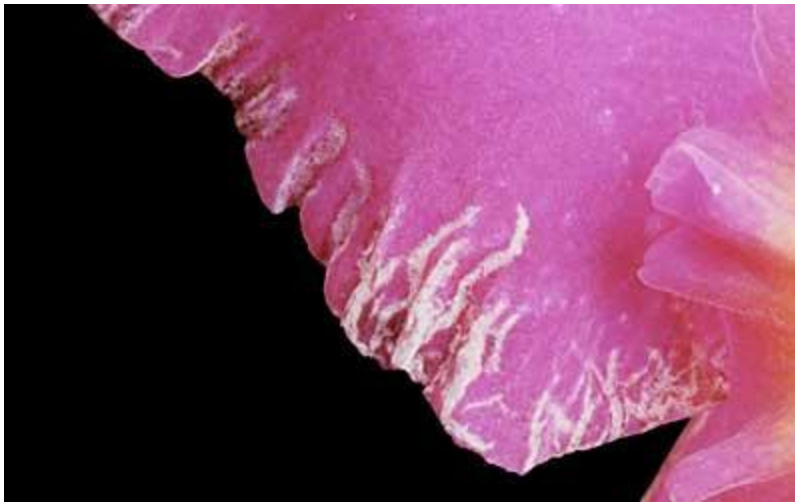


Aphids, (shown at left) also commonly called plant lice, cause damage to orchid plants and flowers by sucking fluids from them. So in effect, your orchid has to share it's food and water with the aphids. These insects are usually less than 1/8 inch long, greenish white or black. Aphids have soft, pear-shaped bodies, long legs, antennae, and sucking mouthparts to feed on plant juices. Most are wingless, but winged forms can migrate between plants when a colony becomes crowded. The adult female aphid gives birth to between 60 and 100 female nymphs every day for a period of 20 to 30 days. These nymphs immediately start to feed and grow, molting several times to mature to an adult female capable of reproducing within seven to ten days, all without maturing. So you can see that within a few days, thousands of aphids can be born. The effects of a large quantity of sucking insects can deform new growths, damage or abort flowers, and cause dehydration and a resulting decline in plant health.

Mealybugs (right) are more closely related to scale and create the same kind of problems as aphids by feeding on plants juices. Unlike scale however, both juveniles and adults are mobile and can easily move from plant to plant. The complete life cycle takes six weeks to two months depending on the species and the environmental conditions, and females can lay 300-600 eggs. Like aphids, mealybugs can reproduce at a prodigious rate if not controlled early on. Mealybugs are small, a little over a sixteenth of an inch (2-4mm), and covered in a whitish waxy secretion that gives them a fuzzy appearance. Although they are small, they are easy to spot because by the time you discover mealybugs, there are usually more than one. Although the waxy secretion offers these insects some degree of protection, they are not nearly as formidable as the armored scales. Both aphids and mealybugs are capable of producing female-only generations, hastening the growth of a colony.

These pests can create additional problems that may end up being worse than the damage directly caused by feeding. Aphids and mealybugs excrete large amounts of honeydew as they feed making them attractive to ants. The ants actually "farm" them for this sweet substance and can contribute to spreading the pests to other plants nearby. This honeydew provides an excellent breeding ground for sooty mold. Additionally, all three sucking insects covered here can act as a vector for spreading diseases from plant to plant.





Thrips can destroy flowers overnight with their rasping mouth parts.

Thrips are the final insect to be covered here and to me, are the most insidious. Thrips are small, very small, and therefore difficult to detect. Usually, you see the damage before the thrip. Although thrips can and do cause damage to orchid plants, their preferred feeding ground is flowers and buds. There is nothing more heartbreaking than waiting a whole year for that favorite orchid to bloom, and find out that it has been defaced by thrips. They can even get between the folds of a just-opened bud and cause scarring or bud blast. As if they weren't hard enough to see, thrips can move quickly when disturbed and will hide under folds in the lip or where the petals and sepals meet. Although the insects have wings, being so tiny, they may just as frequently be dispersed by wind. One piece of common advice for managing thrips is to eliminate known host plants from around the orchid growing area. Here in Florida, gardenia is notorious for harboring thrips and orchid hobbyists are often advised to move or spray their gardenia bushes. Other host plants are ficus benamina, camellia and magnolia.



Thrips are small, elongate insects ranging from 1/25 to 1/8 inch in length. They feed by puncturing the plant cells with their rasping-sucking mouthparts and withdrawing cell sap. This pest usually appears in 3-4 random cycles throughout the year. There do not seem to be any environmental conditions that indicate a thrip outbreak, although a dry warm autumn usually brings one. They can be a problem for 1-3 weeks and then not appear again for several months.

For eliminating these pests, first we will cover the most benign home remedies. These safe remedies will work, but require dedicated applications to effect control...once is not enough. For small, early outbreaks of aphids, scale or mealybugs, a safe and effective treatment is castille-peppermint soap used at a rate of 1tsp. per quart of water. The liquid soap (Dr. Bronner's or generic) can be found at natural food and some grocery stores. We keep a one-quart

handsprayer of the solution in the greenhouse for zapping pests when we see them. You can set the sprayer on "stream" and wash away a small colony of mealybugs, or on "spray" to destroy aphids. You can also use household liquid soap at the same dilution but peppermint oil adds to the effectiveness. 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol will also work. We take the sprayer out of a new empty hand sprayer and insert it into a bottle of rubbing alcohol and use it to spray just about any insect pest. A longtime popular home remedy for insect pests is one cup of Formula 409 cleaner, one cup of 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol to two cups of water. These home remedies are good safe treatments for people who grow their orchids in their homes, but they need to be applied every other day until the problem is under control.

Insectidal soaps (Safer's) and horticultural oils (Volck, Neem Oil) are useful against both aphids and

mealybugs as well as other insect pests that feed on orchids. One thing to remember about using them is that they can cause damage to orchids if applied when the ambient air temperature is much above 80° F, although the soap is less likely to. Follow label instructions carefully and spray late in the day when temperatures are set to decline.

General purpose insecticides such as Sevin WP and Malathion will also control both scale and mealybugs as well as thrips, but many growers prefer Orthene 75% WP and it is also the preferred treatment for thrips. You can mix 1/4 tsp. to a quart of water in a handsprayer and use it for all three pests. Do not use any spreader-sticker or soap if you intend to spray flowers or buds for thrips. During a trip outbreak, we keep a couple of handsprayers with Orthene in the shadehouse and spray buds and flowers every couple days.

Finally, be sure to read our general advice on pesticide use in the [previous newsletter](#).

Greg Allikas
August 2010

Resources

Previous Beginners Newsletters are archived [right here](#) on the AOS website while we have an ever-growing archive of popular [Q&A's here](#). Take a look around the AOS website - it may well be your best orchid resource on the web!

The [AOS Video Library features](#) "How To" videos on a range of subjects. Learn essential orchid culture techniques from the comfort of your easy chair !!!

[Join the AOS today](#) and get twelve great issues of our award-winning *Orchids* magazine, our Membership Newsletter, PLUS members-only website content like Orchids A to Z, Great Ideas (orchid tips & tricks), AOS Award Index and select magazine article reprints. The October issue will include a special 32-page insert on *Latouria Dendrobiums*. Don't miss this essential guide to these wild and wonderful orchids - join the AOS now !!!!

ORCHIDS magazine upcoming features...



THIS MONTH

- ° Breeding Micro Phal hybrids
- ° The Blue Orchid, *Pescatoria coelestis*
- ° *Epipactis helleborine*; weed or trophy?
- ° Spotlight on *Dendrobium anosmum*

left: *Cattleya labiata* - photo © Greg Allikas

SEPTEMBER

- ° *Cattleya labiata* and its culture
- ° A Bright & Colorful Miniature: *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*
- ° Growing Orchids on a Log

send comments to - newsflash@aos.org

The [AOS Orchid Forum](#) is a great place to find quick answers to your questions. Helpful growers from around the world share their orchids and experience.

[Click here to join the AOS today - become a better grower!](#)

[Benefits include award-winning Orchids magazine,](#)

["Members Only" website content, reciprocal gardens access and more!](#)