



# ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

Neighborhood Community Center | 1845 Park Avenue | Costa Mesa, CA | 714-327-7525

August 2008

## August Speaker

### Alan Koch

“Understanding the Brazilian Cattleya Alliance and How to Grow Them”

Our August speaker is Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids. His talk is entitled “Understanding the Brazilian Cattleya Alliance and How to Grow Them.”



Alan has been growing orchids since 1969 when an aunt gave him three Cymbidiums. In 1977 he and his wife, Cheryl, opened Koch Orchids in Newbury Park, California. At this location they concentrated on orchids that grow outdoors in California including some Cattleyas. Soon the Cattleyas became their major interest, and they found themselves requiring more greenhouse space. A 16 x 30 foot greenhouse and two 10 x 60 foot lath houses where quickly outgrown and a new location was needed. In 1983 Alan and Cheryl moved their business to the Sacramento Valley, and in 1985 they purchased 10 acres in Lincoln, California and renamed their nursery Gold Country Orchids.

They have three modern greenhouses

with rolling benches and computer controls to house the collection. With 16,000 square feet of growing area and three climate zones they have plenty of room for their plants.

Alan is recognized as an expert in Brazilian Cattleyas and is a trendsetter in miniature Cattleya breeding. He has been published in the *Orchid Digest*, in *Orchids*, the American Orchid Society magazine, and the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is also an AOS accredited judge. Currently, he is Vice-Chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the *Orchid Digest* and a Trustee for the AOS. Gold Country Orchids will provide the plant table.

Denise Claycomb  
First Vice President

## President's Message

Thanks to **Michael Miranda** for graciously allowing his house to be used once more for our Installation Banquet. Thanks to **Phil Duke** and **Mary Kermani** for making most of the arrangement. It was a good time as always.

A special thanks to **Valerie Sanders**, our ribbon judging coordinator. She has done an outstanding job these past years taking care of our judges and keeping track of the points. I also very much appreciate that though she is now passing on the torch, she is training up a replacement, **Chitsaya Winmaw**. Good job!

**Ha Bui** and **Jim Miller** will be co-chairing the NHOS effort at the Southland Show at the Huntington Gardens this year, October 14-19. They will need blooming plants and other logistical help. Please see them, if you are interested.

## August Culture Class

The August culture class will be conducted by **Sam Allevato**, a public information officer for the Great Park in Irvine. Previously, he was the Mayor and now a Councilman for the City of San Juan Capistrano. He will discuss the plans for the park, including the possibility of a venue for orchid events and meetings. It should be a thought provoking talk.

Joyce Nugent  
Culture Class Coordinator

Please make sure that you see **Laura Perry**, Membership Secretary, to pay your dues and update your information for the membership roster right away. We will be printing up the new booklets soon.

At the July meeting of the NHOS Board of Directors we set three goals for the society. Firstly, we need to remain fiscally solvent. We will be looking at making our events more profitable and trimming costs. We may also look at some creative ways to raise money. Secondly, we will seek IRS 501-C3 status. This should encourage more folks to donate to the Society for the tax break. Thirdly, we will sell announcement/advertising space in this newsletter, *Orchid's Aweigh*. This will happen during the year after we figure out how to coordinate the collection of funds and publish the space in a polished way.

Blessings,

Tom Harrison

Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month

**Culture Class** at 7:00 p.m.  
**General Meeting** at 7:45 p.m.

## Discovering the Orchids of the Périgord Region of France

I'm just back from France where I spent one week of my stay in the region called le Périgord, located in southwestern France, about two hours east of Bordeaux.



When you mention to the French that you will be visiting the Périgord, they characteristically respond that "on y mange très bien" (translation:

the food is excellent). That's certainly true since the area is known for its foie gras, confit de canard et d'oie, truffles, and the excellent wines of Bergerac. With my love of France and good food, I don't deny that I looked forward to indulging in the regional specialties, but more than that I went with the intention of exploring the region's rich historic past, beginning with prehistory to the middle ages and to the Renaissance. Anything post-Renaissance was far too modern for me. And, yes,

there was one other goal for this trip being the good orchidophile (orchid hobbyist) that I am, and that was to see the native orchids of le Périgord growing in situ. I have Lisa Humphreys to thank for this.

In the next few paragraphs and the accompanying photos, you will meet Madame Josiane Glaudon, a native of the Périgord, who graciously took us to visit a wooded area not too far from her house where at least 25 different species and four natural hybrids of orchids regularly bloom from spring to early summer.

A retired elementary school principal and a very dynamic individual by nature, Mme Glaudon discovered this orchid habitat about five years ago on a walk with her dog when they came upon a very fragrant smell. And since then, she has become a very diligent conservationist and caretaker of this habitat, creating trails, noting the flowering habits and history of the plants, documenting the flowers with photos, etc. She is a member of a local orchid group whose major focus is the conservation and documentation of the natural orchids of the Périgord. There are about fifteen

members in the group, and they meet just a few times a year

during the flowering season to visit the habitats and document their findings.

Among the different genera, growing in this small habitat were several species of *Ophrys*, *Epipactus*, *Cephalanthera*, *Orchis*, *Platanthera*, and others. Mme. Glaudon was pleased to report that in the last five years the number of blooming plants has increased, as has the appearance of different species. The habitat in question, located near the hamlet of La Dornac, is not kept secret but visitors need to be familiar with the area or know someone who is. I learned that all species native to France are terrestrial (so much for my looking for epiphytes in the canopy of the oak trees). Being that my visit was in mid-July, Mme. Glaudon, had forewarned me that the blooming season was all but over, though there might be a slight chance that

either *Epipactus helleborine* or *muelleri* would still be in bloom. Hence, I did not expect to see any blooming plants on this



trip. As we explored the area (with my daughter, Françoise, and her fiancé Ryan), much to our delight, we spotted an *Epipactus helleborine* in full bloom, and

others that were reaching their end. We were all very delighted, to say the least. What had already been a perfect vacation became even more complete.

Native orchids also have their natural predators that are far more consequential than slugs, snails, thrips, or mealy bugs, and nothing that can be treated with rubbing alcohol, diazenine granules or the like. I'm talking four-legged animals,



namely rabbits, deer, and wild boar that find the blooms a tasty treat! Yikes, I thought, I can't imagine coming face

to face with a wild boar while admiring the local flora. Unphased, Mme. Glaudon reassured us that wild boar will turn around and leave very quickly when they spot a human being.

Having spent an afternoon with Mme. Glaudon, who so graciously shared her knowledge of local orchids, in addition to taking us on a tour of La Dornac's church that dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and has been recently renovated. Though far afield from Southern California, I certainly hope to return to the Périgord during the spring blooming season to see more orchids in bloom. Merci Mme. Glaudon for a fabulous visit.

Nancy Benay  
Co-editor, *Orchids Aweigh*

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NHOS Website: [www.nhos.org](http://www.nhos.org)  
Web Designer: Marcie Hague  
[Marcie.hague@cox.net](mailto:Marcie.hague@cox.net)

Orchid photos courtesy of Ryan Bentley and Josiane Glaudon

## Greenhouse & Garden Tour Coming in September

Our annual greenhouse and garden tour will take place this year on Saturday, September 27.

We're in for a big treat again this year—Merle and Georgette Robboy, Tom Harrison, and Joe and Ann Rupp have graciously agreed to open up their growing areas to NHOS members. This is a great opportunity to see a wide variety of plants—species and hybrids alike, and a new greenhouse at each location.

Last fall when we visited Merle and Georgette Robboy they had just moved into their new home in Fallbrook, and the orchids were

in temporary quarters in the Stable while the new greenhouse and shade area were receiving their finishing touches. We will then move on to Tom Harrison's home in Laguna Hills where he has worked very hard this summer to construct a new greenhouse he imported from Germany and to completely re-landscape his outside areas to add new walkways and much more.

Then we will proceed a short distance to Joe and Ann Rupp's home in Laguna Niguel to see their new home and large greenhouse. Joe is working on it as I write this article, and I am sure it will be great!

We will be serving lunch this year at our final stop at Joe and Ann Rupp's. Please help us plan for the lunch by letting us know if you will be attending. A sign-up sheet will be at our September meeting and printed copies of the driving instructions and scheduled times.

To help with our costs we will ask a \$5.00 donation for NON-MEMBERS who attend the luncheon. There are no charges for current members. If you have questions, would like to help, or rsvp in advance please email me at [jim\\_miller100@att.net](mailto:jim_miller100@att.net).

I look forward to a great day.

Jim Miller

### And the winners of the Newport Harbor Orchid Society Ribbon Judging Awards for 2007-2008 are...

<b>First Place</b>	<b>Denise Claycomb</b>
<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Lynn Wiand</b>
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Dorothy Goldberg</b>
<b>Novice First Place</b>	<b>Joyce Hare</b>
<b>Novice Second Place</b>	<b>Lee Brandt</b>
<b>Outstanding Judge 2007-2008</b>	<b>Dave Smith</b>

Submitted by: Valerie Sanders, Ribbon Chairperson

### August Refreshments

For the August meeting, would members beginning with **Ann and Guy Gottschalk** and ending with **Steve and Eileen Kaufmann** bring snacks to share. Thank you.

**Alba Connor** is now home from a 6 week stay in the hospital. She is frail but is doing well. If you would like to visit before noon is the best time for her. Alba will be 96 in October.

Below: A panoramic view of the garden in the Perigord Region of France





## Mark Your Calendars...

**Saturday, August 9, 2008:** Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Auction, Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St, Carlsbad, 92008. Preview of orchids at 11:00 a.m. Bidding begins at 12:00 p.m. All types of orchids! Contact: Phyllis Prestia orchldy2@mac.com or 760-732-0055.

**August 16, 2008:** Open House at Zuma Canyon Orchids (George Vasquez). The cost is \$25.00, which includes a great lunch of steaks, salmon, wine, desserts and a discount price on all orchids. They still have openings; a \$10.00 non refundable deposit is required. Zuma Canyon is in Malibu, the phone number is 310-457-4783. Contact Mary Kermani for carpooling: 714- 963-1919.

**Saturday, September 27, 2008:** Annual NHOS Greenhouse and Garden Tour.

**Friday, October 3-Sunday, October 5, 2008:** 14<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Orchid Fair, organized and sponsored by Quail Botanical Gardens. [http://www.qbgardens.org/events/pdf/QBG\\_Orchid\\_ad\\_08.pdf](http://www.qbgardens.org/events/pdf/QBG_Orchid_ad_08.pdf)

**Friday, October 17-Sunday, October 19, 2008:** Southland Orchid Show, Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA 91108. This year's theme, Harvest Moon Orchid Festival, honors the grand opening of the Chinese Gardens. <http://www.southlandorchids.org/Southland/Show.htm>.



Nancy Benay  
2 Allegheny  
Irvine, CA 92620



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