



# NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

August 2004

August 17, 2004

Third Tuesday of the month, 8:00 PM,  
Culture Class 7:00 PM

Neighborhood Community Center  
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa  
(714) 327-7525

### Officers

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Nancy Benay  
First Vice President  
Kayoko Nebrig  
Second Vice President  
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Michael Miranda  
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Ron Nash  
Chuck Spain

**News Deadline is the 25th  
of the month.**

### Interim Editor

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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)

## Speaker: George Hatfield “Pendulous Cymbidium Orchids”

**George Hatfield** owns and operates Hatfield Orchids in Ventura County. He specializes in cymbidium orchids, particularly, pendulous cymbidiums. He is the agent for New Horizon Orchids in Japan, which provides some of the famous and spectacular pendulous Cymbidiums. He is active in both the Cymbidium Society of America (CSA) and American Orchid Society (AOS) and is an accredited judge for both societies. George is also a past president of the CSA and was the Chairman of the CSA Cymbidium Congress from 1998-2001 and president of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show in 2002 & 2003. George will provide the plants for the raffle table.

We have an exciting line-up of speakers scheduled for future meetings. **Bill Bergstrom** of Bergstrom Orchids, Hawaii, will be our featured speaker in October, and **James Comstock**, clivia hybridizer, photographer for the *Orchid Digest*, will delight us with a 3-D orchid slide show in November.

## August Culture Class starts at 7:00 p.m.

Good news! By popular demand **Espie Quinn** will continue to organize the culture sessions for the coming year. Thank you, Espie.

## President's Message

We celebrated the NHOS's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in grand style at this year's banquet under the stars with over 80 members, family, and friends sharing in the festivities. Kudos to **Anne Gazda**, **Laura Perry**, **Kayoko Nebrig**, and **Georgia Farmer** for organizing this special occasion, and we can't say thank you enough to **Jan and Fred Anderson** for opening their home, greenhouses and garden for the event. **Merle Robboy** was a great Master of Ceremonies, and **Mary Gerberick** and **Marie Maher** provided the beautiful floral centerpieces for the tables.

Congratulations to **Sharon Pyatt** and **Michael Miranda** for their ribbon judging awards in the "Novice" category, and to **Jan and Fred Anderson** (first place), **Judy and Dave Smith** (second place), **Ron Dier** (third place), and **Greg Fryling** (fourth place) in regular ribbon judging. **Deb Munson** is taking on the ribbon-judging responsibilities for the coming year.

I'm most pleased to announce that **AJ Lane** has volunteered to be the new newsletter editor starting with the September issue, and **Marcie Hague**, Programmer, UC Irvine's School of Humanities, will be the new website designer. If you have news to report or articles to contribute you can reach AJ at [ORKIDZZ@aol.com](mailto:ORKIDZZ@aol.com). Thanks to both. I owe a debt of gratitude to **Chris Aschan** for her technical advice for this issue.

Looking forward to seeing you and your plants on Tuesday, August 17 at our next general meeting.

Nancy Benay

## Tricks and Stuff, Etc.

So, how many of you are now experiencing those nasty *thrips* that have been devastating our own blooming orchids? Even before our blooms open the buds are invaded by those hungry bud-eating devils and permanently disfiguring the emerging blooms???? This is the first time we have encountered these nasty critters ourselves but hope is on the horizon. **Butch** of the **Rowland Collection** says they are now thriving in our area because of our past 'warm' winter (*although WE had a very cold winter here in Corona del Mar*) has come up with a solution.... (*we knew he would; didn't you?*) He uses *Bayer Advanced Garden Rose & Flower Insect Killer*... which seems to do in those devils but only after you have fully saturated your plants, the surface as well as upper and under the leaves... he suggests saturating **ALL** of your plants... potting medium as well as the plants themselves. A great big hug of thanks to **Janell Schuck** for bringing this helpful information to our attention. Nice how our members look out for each other, huh? Thanks **Janell!**

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**STUFF:** Being we now have *another* new insect critter to worry about and we are sure many more are just waiting to attack, we have found a great new resource for all of us to check out: for Good Bugs and Bad Bugs: *Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs: An Integrated Pest Management Guide, Second Edition*. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources \$42

**Continued Get Well Wishes** go out to **Dick** and **Sarah Hess** who have been having many difficulties with her medications; hopefully things are straightened out now, and we will see you both once again at our August meeting! By the way, Happy 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!

Lynn Wiand

## Welcome Back, Ole Perfessor!



Several years have gone by since I decided to start the College of Orchid Knowledge. In the meantime many good culture talks have been provided by our members, and needless to say many members have come and gone after taking a crack at growing orchids. At the suggestion of our president, Nancy Benay, and perhaps with immense daring, I have decided to run a series of articles on everything I have found out about orchids in my 22 years of being an orchid hobbyist. It is my hope that this will help all members and particularly new members. So here goes!

### Names of Orchids

One of my first challenges in becoming an orchid hobbyist was to learn and pronounce properly the four most popular orchids. Here they are listed below:

- Cymbidium-sounds like (sim-bid-e-um)
- Phalaenopsis-sounds like (fail-a-nop-sis)
- Cattleya-sounds like (cat-layer)
- Paphiopedilum-sounds like (paff-eo-ped-ilum)

Now you are properly started to learn the names of other types of orchids but first of all master the above four, and learn to identify them. This will take some time and patience will be required. As you read on in later columns I will help you identify them.

Bill Austin (aka The Ole Perfessor)

## A Glance at the NHOS: Paul Brecht Founding President

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles that will focus on the NHOS's first 25 years. The author is **Leslie Harrison**, an MFA student in UCI's Creative Writing Program, and a former garden editor. Photos courtesy of **Pat Humphreys**.*



Paul Brecht's name is synonymous with orchids throughout California. Many of us know him as an active member of numerous area-orchid societies or as the former owner of Brecht's Orchid Gardens. Paul, who was the founding president of the NHOS, has a long and fascinating involvement with orchids and floral

culture that dates back to the 1930s.

Working initially on potato cultivars and gardenias for Rod McClelland in the San Francisco area, Brecht's life in plants took a sharp turn when he was sent on a fact-finding mission. McClelland's wanted in on the orchid trade, and they wanted Brecht to help. "They were sort-of weird plants, and I got interested. I wanted to know how they worked. And the more I knew, the more I wanted to know. There is no end. Every door you open, there is a new one," he says.

This curiosity and Brecht's patience and care made him the manager of McClelland's orchid range, in charge of 100,000 plants and their caretakers. Brecht worked with many well-know orchid hybridizers, including Frank Fordyce and Bob Jones. Brecht also worked for B.O. Bracey in West Los Angeles, and later opened Brecht's Orchid Gardens in Costa Mesa, which he operated until it closed upon his retirement in 2001. He talks fondly of his many customers and friends he has made through orchids.

Among those friends were John Wayne and his wife Pilar, who regularly requested orchids to decorate their Bayshores home and boat. After Wayne died, it was Brecht to whom Pilar came asking for a special basket of flowers for his funeral. She wanted flowers that grew in Hawaii, where the couple met. Brecht obliged, delivering the display to a location in Laguna so the funeral and burial could be kept private. "When she ordered the

flowers, she wrote out a card, sealed it, and tied it to the display. I'd love to know what it said." Brecht also supplied the occasional truckload of orchids for Bob Hope's Palm Springs mansion. "They used to like to spread them all around the pool."

But he also remembers fondly the many customers who came to his Harbor Blvd. store and greenhouse to talk, to buy plants, and to board their plants. He used to take back orchids that were done flowering for the year, and for a very monthly modest fee, baby-sit them for the owners until they flowered again, a practice he laughs about now.

"Some people just didn't understand the plants. They thought I could take them in, and get them to bloom instantly. They'd be back in a week asking for their plants and wondering why they weren't flowering." But he is also quick to point out how rare those customers were. "People who are interested in plants are nice people," he says, "they're usually patient and kind, and I'm happy to know so many good people."

## Executive Board Meeting Notes Thursday, July 1, 2004

This was a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming board members. We discussed the feasibility of continuing the Oceans of Orchids Show and Sale in 2005. **Anne Gazda** and **Barbara Livingston** will research other locations and rental costs so that the board can better evaluate venue costs and location. **Richard Hara** reported that attendance at the 2004 show was 990 paying customers; the society netted \$2,000 after all expenses were paid. The board voted to schedule the annual auction in May 2005 rather than February or March. Budget allocations were established, including funds to purchase new books for the NHOS library; the board approved donations of \$150 each to the *Orchid Digest* and to the AOS Pacific Judging Center.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairview Room, Neighborhood Community Center. Members are welcome to attend.

## August Refreshment Table

Will NHOS members starting with **Mary Ellen Gerberick** through **Harold Koopewitz** bring refreshments to the August 17 meeting.

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## Mark Your Calendars:

- ◆ Sunday, September 12, Southern California Species Society Annual Auction, 1:00 p.m., Placentia Library.
- ◆ Saturday, September 18, NHOS Greenhouse and Garden Tour; times and locations to follow.
- ◆ Friday, October 8 - Sunday, October 10, The International San Diego Orchid Fair, Activity Center, San Diego County Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA.
- ◆ March 2005-18th World Orchid Conference in Dijon, France, two hours southeast of Paris by fast train. For more detailed information about the conference, go to <<http://www.woc2005.org>>.

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## Help Needed:

*A company or an individual* who replaces broken greenhouse window panes. Contact Jan Anderson at (714) 835-4400 or <[janw@ocprobatelaw.com](mailto:janw@ocprobatelaw.com)>.

*A good plumber or handyman* who has experience installing misting systems (battery operated timer and water lines). Contact Nancy Benay at (949) 552-7713 or <[ndbenay@cox.net](mailto:ndbenay@cox.net)>.

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*Address Update Requested*