



Calypso

October 2011

The Newsletter of the Oregon Orchid Society

www.oregonorchidsociety.org

OREGON ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING October 18, 2011, 7:00 pm

This month the board would like to have a discussion about the future plans for the OOS and the layout for 2012.

Also, we will have a short program on Orchid Pests. As we move our plants back in for the winter, little travelers come with them. Whether you grow in the house year round or in a greenhouse, or summer your plants outside during the summer pests are a big problem. Fall is the time to review your pest management system before your house and/or greenhouse gets closed up against the cold weather. Michael Jenne will give an quick overview of some of the most frustrating pests and some of the control measures. Then the topic will be open for discussion and for those to share their own experiences.



In addition, to the discussions, there will be a group order to place to Tropical Orchid Farm in Hawaii. It is time for the nursery's annual sale and is a great time to pick up plants at great prices. The society is going to cover shipping so you only have to pay for your plants. So bring the checkbook!

President's Message: Dick Van Ingen

I and other Board members feel that boosting membership is the key to our success. I've been thinking about this for a long time. Actually, I see at least four questions here.

How to boost attendance at meetings, of both members and attendees?

How to get attendees to become members?

How to boost attendance at out show?

How to keep members and get more involvement from members?

Events such as the one at the Chinese Classical Garden have promise.

We know that our web presence results in about half of our show attendance and potentially could improve attendance at meetings as well.

Outreach, friendliness, and efforts to involve the members we have must be keys.

I've also been thinking about the question "What are the benefits that go with membership?" I think the answer has changed from a few years ago. In this age of the internet the question is, "what does membership offer that the internet doesn't offer?" Information and online orchid buying opportunities are plentiful on the internet. Friendships are not. To me it's important to actually get together once a month with people who share a common interest. That's something you can't do online, not for real. So I started thinking about other groups I have joined, past and present.

When I reflect on my interest in the Greater Portland Aquarium Society, meeting with people who share that interest is why I belong. I have received tips on how to raise and breed fish that could have come from online but the personal touch is a lot more fun. I feel closest to those people who have invited me over to see their fish rooms or have visited my fish room (greenhouse). Those who joined in a Daphnia collecting expedition are another example. Shared activities bring people together.

My wife and I belong to Friendship Force, travel is something we do as a couple. As a sometimes board member, I feel closer to those people who have offered their home for board meetings or committee meetings. We are closer to the couples we have traveled with, even closer to couples in other U.S. cities or foreign countries who have hosted us or we have hosted (lived with) for a week.

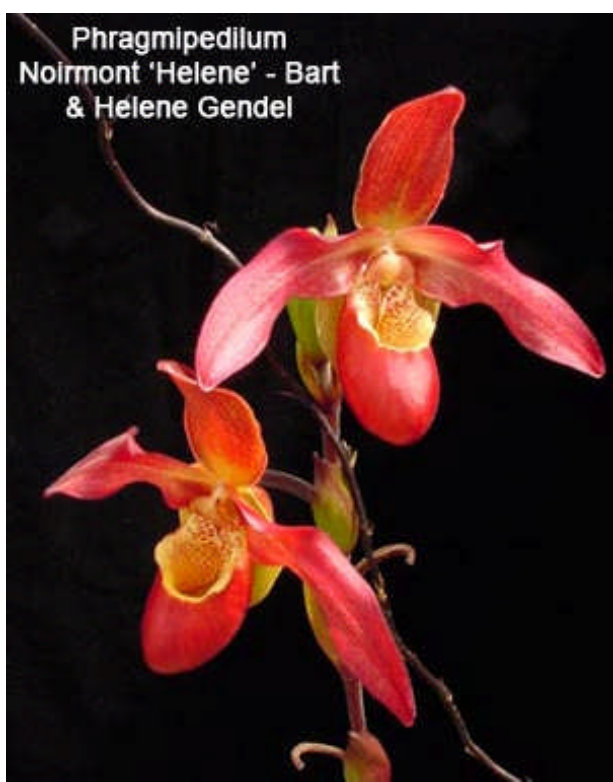
My former membership in a square dance club resulted in meeting my wife, a lot of fun along the way, some exercise and agility enhancement for a two-left-feet kind of guy. Still I felt closest to members who invited us to their birthday parties or anniversary parties off the dance floor.

One church had too much discord and I kind of moved on.

How do we best keep the members we have? We have to be generous in allowing people to be imperfect. All of us are volunteers, we offer what we can and what we are willing to do. Some members seem more inspired than others. I believe that involvement solidifies commitment to the common cause. Volunteerism has to be nurtured. I am not the best at this, but I see its importance. Everybody has their strong points and weaknesses. I dislike discord, I suppose everybody does. I have seen discord take its toll on organizations including the OOS.

I have one observation that I think is important-- almost every past president of the Greater Portland Aquarium Society either bails out before his term is up or we never see them again when his term is up. I have avoided leadership positions there and enjoy simply attending and offering a few programs. I don't care what the hassles at board meetings are, I just choose my rather low level of involvement. How many OOS members feel that way? By the way, our Oregon Orchid Society Board is quite congenial.

I hope we can explore issues such as these at our October meeting.



Upcoming Events

- October 9: OOS Orchid Day Event**
Portland Classical Chinese Garden
- October 18: Monthly Meeting: 2012**
Planning Meeting and Short
Program on Orchid Pests
- November 6: AOS Judging Silverton
Oregon Garden
- November 15: Monthly Meeting: Lycates**
Speaker: James Rose, Cal-Orchid
- December 4: AOS Judging Silverton
Oregon Garden
- December 20: Monthly Meeting: OOS**
Winter Potluck and Silent Auction.



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518 NE 20th Ave Portland, OR 97232.
One block North of Sandy Blvd.
971-255-1336

Orchidarium For Sale

Maui Orchidarium
24.5 w x 21 d x 32.5 h
2 lights & fan in dome
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Can be viewed at Orchidarium.com

Contact Susan Taylor
503-702-4622

October Event: October 9, 2011 Orchids in the Chinese Garden

The Oregon Orchid Society is honored to be participating with the Lan Su Chinese Garden (formerly the Portland Chinese Classical Garden) for a day of celebrating the orchid. The garden has been in Portland's Chinatown for ten years and, despite having the "poetic name" The Garden of Awakening Orchids, there has never been an orchid-centric event at the garden until now. We invite members of our society to consider participating with our orchid display, talking about orchids and the Oregon Orchid Society or helping with a repotting demonstration. And if you aren't able to participate in any of our events, we encourage you to come out and enjoy this fantastic gem in the heart of urban Portland.

The Lan Su Chinese Garden is a destination that no Portlander or visitor to Portland should miss. Though right in the middle of the city, the garden provides respite from city hustle and bustle. Despite its small size, most of a day could be adequate to take in its soothing sights and sounds and absorb the wonders of Chinese culture. Also, its tea house should not be missed!



September's Meeting Recap:

VANILLA



TJ Hartung, President of the Puerta Vallarta Orchid Society gave an animated and interesting talk on the history and cultivation of vanilla-the world's favorite flavor. Not just *Vanilla planifolia*, but *V. pompona* and *V. xTahiensis* are grown for their flavorful pods. The vanilla genus has 123 species originating on several continents, but the commercial Vanilla species are all natives of Mexico.

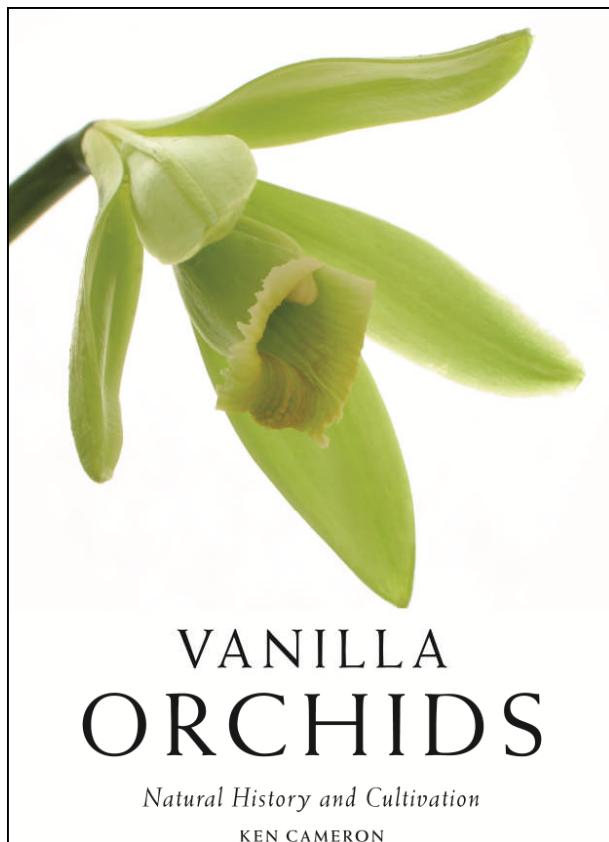
Vanilla flowers are open for less than 1 day and must be hand pollinated to produce "beans". The entire process of producing vanilla beans is very laborious; from pollinating the flowers, picking the pods at the correct degree of ripeness, sun drying during the day and wrapping and boxing the pods up each night for 30-60 consecutive days until the pod is dry enough to store without spoiling. Only then is the vanilla bean ready to be used to make extract, or can be used directly in ice cream or other confections.

To learn more about Vanilla, there is a new book out by Ken Cameron, see the synopsis included in this newsletter.

The OOS wishes to thank TJ for a great talk. Also, to those new members who came to their first meeting to hear the story of Vanilla-Welcome!

Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation

The history of the world's most popular flavor and fragrance spans continents and centuries, but vanilla's origins may surprise even devoted connoisseurs. This revered and expensive spice, with its rare, complex flavor and perfume, actually comes from the fruit of a highly prized orchid.



From its discovery to its fascinating genetics, pollination, and development, leading orchid expert Ken Cameron covers the natural history, biology, structure, evolution, and diversity of the genus *Vanilla* — especially *Vanilla planifolia*, the primary natural source of vanilla flavor and fragrance — and related orchids. Illustrated with more than 100 color photographs and vanilla artifacts from around the world, this lively exploration includes a complete account of the genus and of its storied allure. Cameron also traces the path of the vanilla bean from harvesting and curing through commercial processing. Detailed profiles of selected species and hybrids include important tips on cultivation. The plants are easily propagated from stem cuttings and can be grown at home for their large glossy leaves and beautiful climbing stems. The intriguing white flowers, however, will elude most home growers, as will the vanilla beans themselves. Under ideal conditions flowers emerge during the night and must be pollinated before noon if they are

to develop into vanilla beans. But creating one's own vanilla extract and making vanilla ice cream from Thomas Jefferson's original recipe are within every enthusiast's reach.

AUTHOR: Ken Cameron

Ken Cameron developed a passion for botany at an early age, and became one of the first people to apply modern DNA sequencing methods to the study of orchid evolution and classification. As a result of his international lab and field research, he has become the world's authority on *Vanilla* and its relatives. He served as a curator and director of the New York Botanical Garden's molecular systematics laboratory for ten years before relocating to the Midwest. Today he is professor of botany and director of the State Herbarium at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Sunset Empire Orchid Show and Sale Seaside, OR— Oct. 1&2

Another successful and fun show was produced by the Sunset Empire Orchid Society. The OOS put in a pretty good display considering the poor timing of the show for flowers this year. Several of the OOS members plants received blue ribbons at the show, including Lori Rheinberger, Michael Novotny, Howard Ballou Michael Jenne and Chris Howard. Lori Rheinberger Lycaste hybrid received special recognition with best Lycaste in the show. Congratulations Lori!



OREGON ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS

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President: Dick Van Ingen
Vice President: Chris Howard
Treasurer: Rhonda Wrobel
Secretary: Stephanie Willis

Directors:

Naoki Kawamura
Michael Jenne

Show Committee:

showchair@oregonorchidsociety.org
Michael Jenne
Craig Williams
Stephanie Willis

OOS Library

Have you noticed that selections from our library are brought to the monthly meetings for your borrowing pleasure? All members in good standing can borrow books for the month and then return them at the next meeting; easy, convenient and educational. Choose from the titles on the table or call or write ahead for specific items. The library's holdings are now available on our website. Contact Rick Burian 503-245-7994.

Newsletter

Do you have something of interest to the society? Put it in the newsletter.

If you have an announcement or something informational to share with the orchid growing community, you can put it in the newsletter. All submissions received by the first of month will get in that month's newsletter.

Get it to newsletter@oregonorchidsociety.org

Contact Information

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503.632.1655, lori@bctonline.com

Society Orchid Supplies

Orchid Bark for Oregon Orchid Society Members.

Contact Lori Rheinberger (503) 632-1655

4 cu ft orchid grade Perlite - \$15.00
2 cu ft high quality orchid bark - \$10.00

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Advertising is available in the Calypso. A very economical way to reach a specific customer base. Contact the Editor at via email at newsletter@oregonorchidsociety.org
The current monthly rates are as follows:

Full Page Ad: \$15.00
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Eric Hunt