



Tony Velardi's
display at our
2009 Spring Show

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

“Orchids for Amateurs”

Founded July, 1957

The

INFLORESCENCE

July 2009

www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com

Our July Guest Speaker is

Tony Velardi

“A 2009 Visit to Tony’s Garden”

Tony, an avid hobbyist Cymbidium grower from Artesia, California, is not only a passionate grower of pendulous Cymbidium devonianum hybrids, but also a speaker so entertaining that there is little chance of anyone dozing off during his presentation. Tony acquired his first cymbidium in 1969.

Tony joined the San Gabriel Valley Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America in the early 70s, and after serving on the board of directors, he served as president. He is still active in the Branch along with his wife Gina. Tony is also a past president of the Orange County Branch and past president of the Cymbidium Society of America. He retired last year from more than 16 active CSA Judge and Regional Chairman.

Several years ago, Tony, claiming he hadn't room in his back yard to grow out all the seedlings he created, joined hands with Ron Hill of Mariposa Garden. Tony supplies the flasks and Ron, a superior grower of all plant genera, grows them out. Many have found their way into the hands of top hobbyist growers and the raffle table will be supplied with more of these potential winners. Two years ago, Tony and Ron began releasing more Novelty and Standard seedlings, expanding on their successful pendulous hybrid lines.

The topic of his talk tonight will be “A 2009 Visit to Tony’s Garden.”

Susan Amíní

Orchid Care Session 7:00pm

Culture Session: Tony Velardi will talk to us about Cymbidium care and culture.

This month’s raffle table will be provided by Mariposa Gardens.

President's Message

Happy 52nd anniversary SBOS! Our monthly speakers will again be scheduled by Susan Amini, our 1st V. P. Our new 2nd V.P., Kayo Libiano is in charge of special events; Saul Miller, our Secretary, records our board meeting minutes, and Christine Hough will be paying the bills. My wife Eeva will be multi-tasking: registering new members with Kumi Salisbury, keeping our membership database current, designing the annual Membership Directory, and, until we find a replacement, editing our newsletters. Arthur Hazboun promises to keep our website humming and the email newsletters on line like he did last year. Show Chair Marla Corey will be busy organizing two more shows this year; Don Goss, our trusted computer specialist, takes care of publicity in addition of being an excellent greeter. Nick Braemer will be coming up with some more newsworthy ideas, and our Director Emeritus, Bob Streeter, keeps an eye on the store to assure that we have the judges and other qualified personnel available.

Our members are the primary source of new board members. We need to spread the word of our enjoyments and advantages of being an active South Bay Orchid Society member. Our Plant Opportunity Table is the most expensive monthly event that our society provides. Everyone should wear their badges to get a ticket; bring in some food and get a ticket; bring in a plant for display to get another ticket, and best of all, buy tickets to try to win favorite orchid plants.

Save the 17th of this month for an evening of enjoying orchids, having a friendly chat with your fellow members, getting and giving advice, and listening to our speakers.

Tom Renger

Orchis Mascula – Edible Orchid? Part I *By Arthur Hazboun - SBOS Webmaster*

Have you ever eaten or drank an Orchid? Maybe you have and didn't know it. Vanilla, as we know it, comes from the seed pods of the *Vanilla Planifolia* orchid. The seed pods known as vanilla bean are used in making vanilla liquid extract (vanillin), which is used as a flavoring in cooking, baking, recipes, and food additives.



How about sahlab? The first time I tasted this extremely delicious custard-like pudding beverage, I was astounded. The taste, to me, is reminiscent of tapioca pudding combined with vanilla custard in a

liquid form. It is made from "salep" which are the dried and ground root (tubers) of the orchid ***Orchis mascula*** also known as the "early purple orchid". In southern Europe and the Middle East tubers are collected and dried to produce flour. The end result contains nutritious starch-like polysaccharide called glucomannan that is mixed with sugar, flavorings, and liquid (such as water, milk or rose water) to produce a drink called salep or sahlab. It is also often made into a custard/pudding dessert or into ice cream called sahlab (pronounced suhlub.) The word salep is Turkish: *salep - sahlepe*, from the Arabic language and there it's known as "sahlab". It refers to both the orchid as well as to the salep drink. The name salep comes from the Arabic expression *hasyu al-thalab* "fox testicles"—a graphic description of the appearance of the orchid tubers; compare the classical Greek word, *órchis*, which means both testicle and orchid (and is of course the etymon of the English word).



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Note: The popularity of salep (sahlab) in Turkey has led to a decline in the population of wild Orchis mascula orchids. As a result it is illegal to export true salep out of the country. You can see the complete article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3126047.stm>

If anyone has grown or owns an Orchis mascula plant, and is willing to share a division, please email the author at special orchids at southbayorchidsociety dot com. Thanks.



Sahlab powder mix is available locally at:
Hawthorne International & Grocery Market
24202 Hawthorne Blvd (One block South of P.C.H.)
Torrance, CA 90505
(310) 373-4448



Look for Part II in a future newsletter

Importing Australian orchids

I have been toying with this for over a year now and the marriage was finally consummated! After all kinds of hiccups I finally landed a shipment of AU Dendrobiums. It was a bumpy landing but they are now in my backyard; that's all that counts.

The import permit is free and easy to obtain from APHIS. Sounds like an insect but that's the agency that inspects imported agricultural products. That has to be forwarded to the shipper who has to jump through hoops in Australia to get it all together. He needs to issue a 100% accurate packing list — one discrepancy and the package is destroyed. CITES and a Phyto Sanitary certificate are obtained there at the cost of AU \$175. (30% difference in the exchange in our favor). I soon found out that successful inspection in Australia does not guarantee the smooth passage into the US.

The plants were shipped May 13th. In the morning of June 1st I was notified that a shipment for me had arrived and was inspected. By now they had spent 17 days in the box! They found an offending organism and gave me a choice: Ship the plants back to AU at my cost (about \$200), have the plants destroyed at my cost (about \$100), or have them disinfected, also at my cost. Chemical treatment has to happen after hours so I'd be billed 3 hours of overtime by APHIS. That comes to \$153. They don't disinfect but gave me the number of an individual who does it, the only one on their list, so no real choice. I called him and he eagerly accepted. Cost: \$50 per box. There were 4 boxes, one large, one medium and 2 small. No matter the size, \$50 is what this genius charges PER BOX. If I don't like it they can always destroy the plants.

They told me to be there at 6:15 PM so I could write APHIS their check. I did go there at the time and they were busy unloading a truck. Soon after that the guy arrived to disinfect the plants, which he did in 30 minutes. He said

spent about two hours with them earlier pulling stuff off them to make them super clean. Good work if you can get it. APHIS obviously would have been there anyway as the truck was still being unloaded as I left with my plants. Then I had to unpack them and soak them in RO water for half-an hour. After that they got soaked for another 30 minutes in water with double dose of Super Thrive, double dose of Sea Weed Extract and two pounds of sugar per five gallons. For 100 plants, including some large D speciosums, I finished on the far side of midnight.

WHAT A RIP!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Never the less, I'm happy I got the plants after all that hassle and planning. Air freight, Phyto, and the cost on arrival brought the bill to \$7.00 per plant. Without the last minute hiccup, the cost per plant would have been half. I still think I got a good deal considering that many of the plants were bought for \$7 to \$8 AU, subtract 30% because of exchange. DUNU charges \$25 and up for similar plants in Santa Barbara. Many of the plants are simply not available in the US. I also brought in eight large D speciosums of good quality. Less than \$100 AU, do the math. Similar plants cost \$300 and up here, when you can get them.

All in all, what a learning experience. If you want to see the type of plants, Google up Australian Orchid Nursery and check out their "online shopping". The menu changes all the time so most of the plants I have bought there over the last year don't show up anymore. Also under the same name they list plants on Ebay where the more exotic stuff is sold. The large awarded speciosums, their breeding stock, are bought by special arrangement.

I told Ahnuld that he should get in on this cash cow and not let the Feds take it all, he said he was too tired and it's too close to the end of his term for him to do anything.

Nick Braemer

How to Show Off Your Plants at Our Meetings

I joined the society in 2004. I have vivid memories of the first time I brought a plant to show at a meeting. **I was nervous!** To take you back for a moment, the winter prior to joining the society, I killed every one of my orchids, except for a keiki. But that's a story for another day. I'd only been to a couple of meetings since joining. The number of orchids I bought since that heartless winter could be counted on one hand. I had a Miltonia that had come into bloom and looked nice . . . I thought. So, what the heck, I'll bring it. I'll probably just embarrass myself. But, with a pocket full of courage (and knowing everybody else knows more than me), I'll bring my Miltonia anyway.

I can't remember who the speaker was or what it was about. It was time for the break. I walked around the room not really knowing anyone and saw a ribbon attached to my Miltonia. **I was shocked!** I walked over to find a red ribbon dangling from my plant. Several people came up to me to ask how I got it to bloom so beautifully because they could never get their Miltonias to bloom. I only had the plant for 9 or 10 months and had no idea what I was doing or what to tell them. But what I *can* tell you . . . **I was elated!** I couldn't wait until the next meeting to bring in another plant. It felt **so** fun!

To bring my Miltonia, I balanced it on the passenger seat and drove to the meeting with one hand on the wheel while the other hung onto my plant for dear life. This is not the best way to transport plants to and from meetings. So, I'd like to share with you a couple of simple things that you can do to get your plants to and from meetings easily, and most importantly, safely.



First, the easiest and simplest way to get started is to find a cardboard box that's not too tall, or cut one down so it's not too deep. The box

should be a bit larger than the pot size(s) that you want to bring. Put your plant(s) into your box, being careful to arrange the leaves and spikes comfortably. You may leave a little space between each of the pots, don't overcrowd them. Now, take some newspaper and loosely crumple single sheets of the paper and wedge

it around the pots and the sides of your box. This will keep the plants from shifting around. Since the bottom of the box is larger than the pot, the box will ride along in the car much more stably than pots. Place the box on a flat surface in your car – like the floor, maybe your passenger seat up front, or in the back if you have an SUV.



If you plan to stop for dinner on your way to the meeting, make certain you can park in complete shade. Parking in the sun can cook your plants and even start sunburn. I generally go directly from home to the meeting.

While at the meeting, place your plants on the judging table and your box under the table with all of your loosely crumpled newspaper. Then just repack them for transporting home at the end of the meeting.

A second approach is to use plant trays that commercial growers use. I've picked up several different sizes – ones for small plants and others for larger pot sizes. What I would suggest is that at our next show, stick around on Sunday to help break down the show. The commercial growers at our shows always take home stacks of empty plant trays. Most of the growers are more than willing to sell them. Just ask any of the commercial growers how much they want for a plant tray. You'll find that they may let them go for as little as a dollar or three. By using

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People, Places and Things

Membership renewals are due

Your \$17 payment covers two members at the same household
from July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010.

We remember Judy Schroeder

She died after being in ill health for several years after her husband, Jack Schroeder's death. Member since 1984, Judy was the loving wife supporting Jack in his abundant activities on behalf of SBOS.

Glenn Burroughs

who was our President in 1987 has died.

Eileen Burroughs Shipman emailed us the following note:

“ My uncle, Glenn Burroughs passed away February 22, 2008. I recovered four orchids from Glenn's house in Bakersfield. I repotted them and they are growing well.

He really enjoyed gardening and the garden clubs.”

○○○○○○○○

Here is another email:

“Glenn Burroughs was my son's (5th?) grade teacher and really made a difference in his life. We remember him fondly. So sorry to hear of his passing.”

Peggie Wormington
and son John

Orchid Trader

Orchid Trader is always open.

Contact Nick Braemer or Tom Renger



The Refrigerator Door Orchid Calendar July 2009

SBOS Committee Chairs:

Librarian:

Kayo Libiano..... 310-374-7353

Raffle Tickets:

Burt Dobratz 310-375-2693

Refreshments:

June Brooks 310-549-4266

Joann Green..... 310-830-1585

Ribbon Judging:

Polly Kinsinger..... 310-374-6471

Property Manager:

Ron Henry 310-374-9699

Meeting Set-up:

David Okihara..... 310-324-3211

AOS Liaison:

Bob Streeter 310-541-6692

Southland Representative:

Marilyn Hill..... 310-675-0604

Sunshine:

Kathy West..... 310-643-8740

Publicity:

Don Goss 310-316-3595
ORCHIDS AT SOUTHBAYORCHIDSOCIETY
DOT COM

Our future meetings are

- ◆ Friday July 17
- ◆ Friday August 21
- ◆ Friday September 25 (*4th Friday*) *

- ◆ Culture sessions start 7 PM
- ◆ General meetings start 8 PM
at South Coast Botanic Garden

Next board meeting will be

- ◆ July 21, 2009
Call 310-316-0707 for location

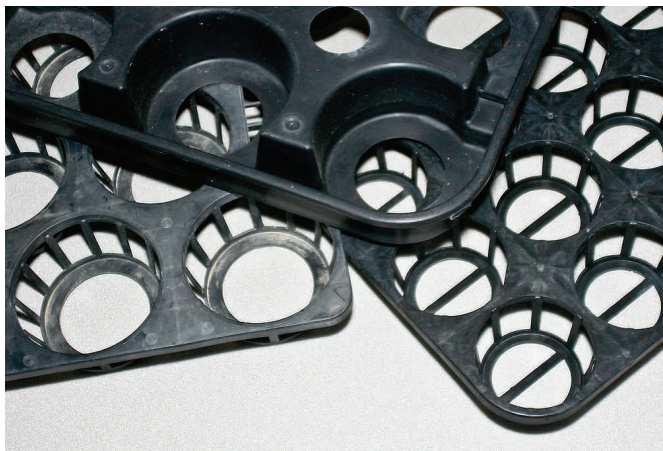
South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation Events in July 2009

- ◆ 9-11, Children's Discovery Garden; 10am-12pm
- ◆ 18-19, L.A. Fern Show
- ◆ 19, Palos Verdes Symphonic Band, "Pops N Picnic"
- ◆ 23-26, Shakespeare Festival, "Romeo and Juliet"

Please support our host, the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation for any of these educational and fun filled events. For more information log-on to:

<http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/3montheventcalendar.html>

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plant trays, you need only place your pots into an appropriate size tray and you're ready to load your car.

I recommend cleaning the trays with a strong bleach solution and allowing them to dry in the sun before use. Commercial growers are not immune to fungus, bacteria, and viruses.

No matter if you're an Amateur or an Advanced Amateur, bring your bloomers in so that everyone may enjoy your flowers. **You just never know what you may win!**

Don Goss

“The Inflorescence”

South Bay Orchid Society
c/o Eeva Renger
438 Avenue E
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5141

Upcoming Events & Shows:

July 10-12, 2009

29th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

Earl Warren Showgrounds

Friday-Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Free Admission, Parking: \$5.00

More Info: <http://www.orchidfair.com.com/>

July 18-19, 2009

San Diego County Orchid Society — Summer Show in the Park

Room 101 Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park

San Diego, CA

email: tombiggart@mac.com