

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY THE ORCHID COLUMN

Carol Siegel, Editor

October 4, 2009 2 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 4, 2009
Steve Frowine,
"Easy-to-Grow Mexican Species"
November 1, 2009
Lynn Shaughnessy,
"Pleurothallid Culture"
December 6, 2009
10th Annual Holiday Party
January 10, 2010
Jim Comstock, "3-D Orchids"
February 7, 2010
Martin Motes, "Vandaceous
Intergeneric Hybrids"
March 7, 2010
Peter Lin
"Mini Cattleyas"
April 4, 2010
Jason Fischer "Phalaenopsis"
May 2, 2010
Mike Glikbarg TBA
June 6, 2010
Mike Blietz, "Encyclias"
July 11, 2009
Carol Siegel "Sex Life of Orchids"
August 1, 2010
Barbecue
September 19, 2010 (3rd Sunday!!!)
Greenhouse Tour
December 5, 2010
11th Annual Holiday Party



WISHING YOU LOTS OF FALL FUN!

We are pleased to welcome Steve Frowine once again to our club on October 4th. The guru, most known for his ORCHIDS FOR DUMMIES book, is now living in Mexico and will be speaking on :

Easy-to-Grow Mexican Orchid Species

Mexico is home to more than 1200 orchid species, many of which are not commonly grown by US orchid fanciers, even though they much deserve to be. This illustrated talk will feature those that are most spectacular and easiest to grow including laelias, encyclias, prosthecheas, oncidiums, epidendrums, maxillarias, stanhopeas, and lycastes. Most of these orchids are adapted to high temperatures and low humidity so should be very well suited to orchid lovers in the Las Vegas area.

Steve now resides in Mexico and

takes great pleasure in growing many of these in his outdoor shade house and in trees. He will share his tips on how to grow these orchids to perfection.

A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, Steve Frowine has been fascinated with horticulture since his high school days. He was a student in floriculture and horticultural education at Ohio State University, and after graduating from there, he continued his education at Cornell University where he received a Master's in ornamental horticulture and horticultural education.

He then moved to Hawaii to assume the position of Supervisor of Education at Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden where he set-up an Apprentice Gardeners Training Program. Steve returned to Ohio and served for three years at The Garden Center of Greater Cleveland as Editor and Activities Coordinator. In Cleveland he was a regular guest on the popular T.V. Show, The Morning Exchange.

In 1977, Steve became the Director of the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center in Mellon Park. In Pittsburgh he was a frequent guest on various radio and TV shows and wrote

Steve Frowine, continued...

the weekly garden column for The Pittsburgh Press.

Steve next served five years as the Chairman of Indoor Horticulture at Missouri Botanical Garden. He wrote a weekly garden column for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, was a frequent guest on local T. V. and radio shows and contributed to various national horticultural publications.

In 1984 Steve joined the W. Atlee Burpee & Company, the nation's largest mail-order seed business, as its Public Relations Manager and Staff Horticulturist. He wrote articles for various national magazines and newspapers and was a guest on numerous radio and TV talk shows, including appearances on The Today Show and CBS Morning News. He later served Burpee as its Nursery Merchandise Director where he developed its new catalogs of trees, shrubs, bulbs, and perennials.

In 1990, Steve joined White Flower Farm, one of the nation's top mail-order nurseries, in Litchfield, Connecticut where he served as Vice-President of horticulture. He later set up his own specialty plant business for two years called The Great Plant Company and then served as Director of Horticulture at Etera.

Steve was recently vice-president of Horticulture at International Gardening Products where he served as their chief horticultural counsel.

Steve is sought throughout the United States as a horticultural expert. He gives horticultural talks throughout the U.S. and has made various T.V. appearances including ones on Martha Stewart Living, Home Shopping Network, and HGTV. He has given over 500 lectures to horticultural societies, universities and botanical gardens including lectures at Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Chicago Botanical Garden, Missouri Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens, Mohonk Mountain House, Callaway Gardens, Southeastern Flower Show (Atlanta), Charleston Flower Show, Nashville Antique and Garden Show, Sagamore Resort, Cleveland Flower Show, New York Botanical Garden, Williamsburg, Federation of National Wildlife, and the Federated Garden Clubs.

He provides horticultural support to garden writers of many major city newspapers and national magazines and has written over 200 articles for such publications as Fine Gardening Magazine, American Nurseryman, Nursery Business, National Gardening, NMPro, Garden Center Management Magazine and Country Woman Magazine.

During his career he has served various professional organizations including being a Board Member of The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Garden Writers of America. Steve completed a six year term as one of six members chosen from top horticulturists from U.S. and England to be on the Visiting Committee of Longwood Gardens. He has served as a judge at most of the major Flower Shows in the U.S. including those in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Nashville and, for several years, served as the Chairman of the Board of The National Gardening Association.

Steve is an avid gardener and is interested in many facets of horticulture and has a special love for orchids and other tropical plants. He has recently written four books on orchids. One of his books, *Orchids for Dummies*, was published by Wiley Press in March of 2005 and another one, *Fragrant Orchids*, was published by Timber Press in September 2005. *Miniature Orchids*, was published by Timber Press in Fall of 2007 and *Moth Orchids*, was published by Timber Press in the Summer of 2008. Steve did most of the photography for these books.

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

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Show Display-Shelly North
Show and Tell Gurus-Mike Levin, Tex & Gidget Severance
Judging- Mike Levin and The Severances
Membership Card Design-Leslie Doyle
Barbecue Masters-Eldine Stevens, Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless

I just unwrapped dozens of blooming orchids (and I mean DOZENS) from the Hilo Orchid Farm which will be sold at the October meeting. They are gorgeous and in magnificent bloom! They will be sold for \$18, and I think you will be very thrilled. I know I am salivating already...

Many thanks to Pat Holland, Cathy Loftfield, Karen Fields, Christina de la Cruz and Al de Ricco for our October snacks. We really enjoyed the terrific spread at our September meeting that was provided by Martin and June Learn, John Enscoe, Shelly North and Marsha Hawley. It was fabulously delicious!!

Some upcoming events... There will be a show and sale and AOS member meeting at the Huntington Gardens and Library the weekend of October 16-18 in Pasadena. I am excited because I will be speaking at the AOS meeting on THE SEX LIFE OF ORCHIDS on Saturday, October 17th at 3:30. which I have finally figured out how to do as a power-point presentation, big stuff for this old lady. Want more information on the show and SALE which will have lots of vendors (yay...) www.orchidshow.org

The Fall Flower Show will be at the Nevada Garden Center on Saturday October 24 and Sunday October 25. We will set up on Friday. You will be able to enter your orchids for ribbons. It is lots of fun! Come down and take part.

The College of Southern Nevada is having a bare root fruit tree sale featuring low chill varieties from Dave Wilson Nursery. The trees are being offered until October 17th. There is no sales tax. Those that attend Leslie Doyle's workshops get a 10% discount- way to go Leslie! For more information on the trees, call Leslie at 658-7585. This is a fund-raising sale for CCSN.

This year is also the 50th Annual Fall Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House, Saturday November 7 8-5 and Sunday November 8, 9-4. The fall open house showcases Laelia anceps and other Mexican species and hybrids, cymbidium species and Zygopetalum. Check it out www.sboe.com.

Other fun things- Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale, "Orchids in Paradise" November 28 10-5 and November 29, 10-3, the weekend of Thanksgiving. www.orchidsb.net

STEVEN A.FROWINE

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MEXICO IS A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ORCHID LOVERS



Mexico is home to over 1200 kinds (species) of orchids! This country's diverse and mellow climates and ample sunshine provide perfect homes for these plants with dazzling flowers. Orchids have, and still do, form an integral part of the Mexican culture and are lavishly displayed in many of their special holiday celebrations.

The Vanilla orchid (Tlixochitl is the Mexican name for it), that produces one of the most popular flavors and fragrances in the world, is a native to Mexico. It has been treasured by indigenous people even before the Mayans and Aztecs and was actually used as a form of currency. Vanilla is also a crucial component of the most loved confectionery in the world, chocolate, and, as a result, its popularity increased exponentially during the Conquest period of Mexican history, when it was exported to the finest courts in Europe and where the French first perfected the chocolate industry.

Choice and Easy to Grow Natives

For most orchid lovers, though, it is the unparalleled beauty of the orchid flowers, rather than their culinary uses that makes orchids reign as nature's masterpieces. There are many gems that deserve a place in your outdoor orchid garden (if you live in frost-free environment) or greenhouse. Prosthechea ciliare has spidery, fringed flowers that emits a delightful evening fragrance while a relative, Prosthechea vitellina, shouts at you with its flaming orange flowers. Prosthechea citrina, is a delightful small growing species that grows "upside-down" and produces tulip-shaped flowers with a citrus perfume.

Rhyncholaelia glauca, a handsome very compact growing species, and Rhyncholaelia digbyana with its fringed green flower that is intoxicatingly fragrant in the evening, both relish the bright sunlight that Mexico provides so are at home in any sunny windowsill. A multitude of honey-scented, long-lasting purple bloom are displayed on Encyclia cordigera. Barkerias are another group of stellar Mexican natives that show off their

Selected Works

Book

[MOTH ORCHIDS--The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis](#)

The most comprehensive book available on these highly popular orchids!

Books

[Orchids for Dummies](#)

The Best Selling Book on Orchids!

[Miniature Orchids](#)

At last a new book on these popular group of space-saving orchids

[Fragrant Orchids: A Guide To Selecting, Growing, And Enjoying](#)

Explore the sensual world of fragrant orchids.

Selected Articles

[Bitten by the Orchid Bug](#)

For increasing numbers of indoor gardeners, its a wonderful, but highly infectious, affliction.

I GIVE ILLUSTRATED ORCHID LECTURES

Topics include:

Fragrant Orchids

Miniature Orchids

The New Phalaenopsis

The Basics of Orchid

Parenthood (Orchids for Beginners)

Choice Mexican Orchid Species

Please contact me by e-mail (link below) for more deta

[CLICK HERE TO E-MAIL ME.](#)

Read Past Newsletters

plethora of brilliantly colored pink to purple flowers in the fall.

There is no more carefree orchid than the native *Epidendrum radicans*. Its flowers are flaming oranges, yellows, and reds plus various shades of lavender and pink. This orchid asks only for a spot in full to partial sun and occasional watering to put on a continuous show of clustered bright and cheery flowers. Smaller plants of it rapidly grow into large handsome specimens as large as shrubs.

Oncidiums, commonly called "dancing ladies" because their colorfully marked flowers resemble ornate ethnic dresses, are well represented. Many like *Oncidium varicosum* display scores of sunny, cheerful flowers. One or the other of these types of orchids can be found showing off their flowers year around.

Laelias, the Queens of the Mexican Natives

Mexico is highly fortunate to be home to a broad range of impressive orchids, but it is the showy Laelias, close relatives to the elegant hybrid cattleyas used for corsages, that stand out and are usually most sought after. They put on a spectacular display of pink to rose to white flowers in the fall. One of the most stunning is, *Laelia anceps*, which plays a central role in the Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos) celebrations since they display their flowers at the same time as this important holiday. Probably the most common laelia found in the Mexican state of Jalisco is *Laelia autumnalis*, another rosy pink beauty. Both of these species are very easy to grow outdoors and only require morning or afternoon direct light.

Exotic Orchids Are Also Welcome in Mexico

In addition to native orchids, others imported from different parts of the world have found homes in Mexico. The phalaenopsis or moth orchid, the one always featured in home decorating magazines because of its incomparable elegance and the exquisite arching flower spike is frequently offered at local nurseries (viveros) and even in home supply centers. Fortunately for the aspiring orchid grower, this type of orchid is also one of the easiest to grow with the longest lasting flowers. A mature plant can be in bloom for months. Phalaenopsis are found in a broad range of flower colors, from the traditional whites, stripes, and pinks to the newer reds and yellows, and have attractive, glossy-green, strap-shaped, dark green foliage. This orchid performs best in diffused, bright light, normal human room temperatures and moderate humidity.

The Corsage Orchids -Cattleyas

No group of orchids can match this one for bright, colorful and frequently sensuously fragrant flowers. When many people envision what a typical



Prosthechea vitellina



Barkeria scandens

orchid looks like this is the type comes to mind. It was the one given to grandmothers and sweethearts for Mother's Day or prom corsages. Year ago, when these were primarily grown as cut flowers, the plants were large and unruly and usually only grown by those folks with plenty of greenhouse space. Thanks to efforts of modern orchid breeders, many of today's cattleya hybrids are compact growers, yet still maintain their array of colors and delightful fragrances. Look for some of the "minicatts". These are the dwarf growing beauties that fit on any windowsill. Cattleyas grow in about the same locations as the laelias with just a bit less light. Morning or afternoon light suits them fine, but keep them out of hot midday direct sunlight. Other orchids of all types, that also love Mexico's climate are beginning to show up at viveros with regularity like relatives of the oncidiums—beallaras, miltassias, odontobrassias, miltonidiums and others.

Whether you are a novice or an aficionado you will find Mexico is the place to be to see, enjoy and grow a wide range of orchids. The ones mentioned in this article are just a sampling of the rich and diverse group of these glorious plants that you will find in Mexico. Their gorgeous flowers are a perfect tribute to the color and happiness that exemplifies this beautiful country and its warm, friendly people.

For More Information...

To learn more about native Mexican orchids check out the handsome and impressive book, *Orchids of Mexico*, published by Productos Farmacéuticos, S.A. de C.V. in Mexico City. It was authored by many well respected botanists in Mexico, Costa Rica and the US. There is also a superb CD, by the same name, that compliments this book. It is in Spanish and English, is easy to use, and displays superb photography of almost all orchids that are found in Mexico.

For general orchid cultural information you may find my book, *Orchids for Dummies*, helpful. Also, consult the American Orchid Society's Website at: <http://orchidweb.org/aos/>



Oncidium varicosum



Laelia autumnalis



White Phalaenopsis Hybrid

STEVE FROWINE INVITES US TO HIS WEBSITE:

Hello Orchid Friends:

You may recall that a few weeks ago, I mentioned in a meeting of the orchid club that I was starting a new web site to promote the home cultivation of orchids and to help me promote my books. Well, after a tremendous amount of work, and all the delays inherent in building a web site, we (with Mike Anderson, my technical partner) are ready to start debugging the web site.

I'm inviting the orchid club members to help me by using the web site, and by giving me feedback on how the web site works for you. For those of you that would like to participate, please go to this web address, <http://UncutOrchids.com>, and sign-up at the bottom of the page. This will put you on our mailing lists for the video Orchid Care Mini-course, and the "Orchid of the Day" and Orchid Tips newsletters.

After signing-up, you will see a web page that explains how to confirm your subscription. It will direct you to check your email for a message from us, and to click on a confirmation link (we do this to ensure we're not spamming you.) Then you will see the first mini-course lesson in your browser.

The same day you sign-up, you will receive three emails. Thereafter, you will receive one email per day with orchid related information. If you don't want to continue to receive the emails, you can easily unsubscribe from the mailing lists by scrolling to the bottom of any email and clicking on the unsubscribe link.

While reading the emails and the web pages that contain the orchid information, please note any problems you might encounter. You're free to click on any link on the pages. If you see mis-spellings, links that don't work, text that is hard to read, problems with the videos, etc., please let us know by posting your comments in the comment box at the bottom of each web page. If you enjoy the page contents, you are also invited to comment.

We will use your feedback to find and correct problems with the website, and to improve the content for you. Thank you for your help.

Regards,
Steve Frowine

See you all at our October 4th meeting! Love, Carol 254-4168
