



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

July 5th, 2001 - 7:30 PM
Casa Del Prado - Room 101
By [Ben Machado](#), 1st VP

Don't forget our meeting date has moved to July 5th. Rather than conflict with the 4th of July weekend the meeting date has been moved.

We are very fortunate to have Denise Wilson from Boulder Colorado as our guest speaker. She came to light with her article in the November 2000 edition of Orchids, the Magazine of the American Orchid Society. In the article she featured her passive solar home, designed and built to withstand the ravages of severe winter weather, yet ideal for her orchid collection. Normally she would have made a presentation about her home, but with all her activity in Orchid Conservation, she was asked to make a presentation about her current Orchid Conservation project. She has put together a presentation titled "Orchid Conservation in Central America".

While she was out of country her husband, Orvel, provided the following information about Denise. "...She is a dynamic and captivating speaker, as well as being deeply knowledgeable. She has been conducting lectures and teaching classes for a Denver-area orchid retailer for several years. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Denver Orchid Society as Treasurer, and is a respected resource for orchid enthusiasts all along the Front Range".

Denise will also provide plants for the Plant Opportunity Table. She hasn't finalized her plant selection, however, she expects to include substantial quantities of orchids native to Central America.

Denise was asked to provide information about herself, her projects and something about her presentation. Being the consummate over achiever, she sent the following press release.

Orchid Conservation Needs Your Help

"Our July speaker will be Denise Wilson, reporting on Orchid Conservation in Central America.

Denise just spent the month of May traveling around Costa Rica, visiting Monte Verde and other prominent orchid sites, and volunteering on Orchid Conservation at Hacienda Baru in Dominica. She attended the 2nd Meso American Orchid Conservation Conference in San Jose on May 23rd through 26th, and will tell what each of us can do to help preserve these rare and beautiful plants.

This is Denise' third visit to Costa Rica, and there will be many exciting stories about the jungle and hundreds of beautiful pictures from the slides she shot during her adventures.

Denise Wilson's article on growing orchids in her passive solar home in Colorado appeared in the November 2000 issue of ORCHIDS Magazine."

Members and Advertisers

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, or announcements related to orchids, make sure the information gets to the editors by the Second Friday of each month for publishing in the next issue of this newsletter.

To contact the editors, please email Michael Orser or David Gramham at editor@sdorchids.com.

Advertisers please contact Marjorie Kuhlmann at 858.675.0885 or kuhlmann@utm.net under the same deadline.

San Diego County Orchid Society

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Editorial

by Michael Orser

The due date has changed! You know that first box on page one of this newsletter? The one with my email address? The one that no one ever looks at, probably because you read it in your first issue and it has not changed much since then. The due date for articles for the following month's newsletter is now the second Friday of the previous month.

Please take note that this has been changed because of the amount of late submissions I have been receiving. Let it be known that if you have something to be sent to me and I get it late, I will post your name, a quick blurb and your phone number. If you do not want 600+ phone calls, please abide by the deadline. Thank you.

Corrections

At this time we would like to inform those not present at last month's meeting. The new slide projector used for the meetings was finally witnessed by all and proved to be (so far so good) reliable. The cost was previously miscalculated and Paul Tuskes purchased the new projector for half of what was originally stated. In other words, the cost was \$500.

San Diego County Orchid Society

OUR PURPOSE: *To promote interest in orchids and their cultivation, to educate by exchanging information and experiences related to successful orchid culture, and to support the conservation of orchids in the wild.*

SDCOS meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park. We invite you to join the society to receive the monthly newsletter and many other benefits

Beginner's Class: 6:30 pm, Room 104
General Meeting: 7:30 pm, Room 101

If you would like to join the society, please send your check for \$10* for individual, \$12.50 for Dual membership, payable to SDCOS, to: Vivian Folmer, SDCOS Membership, 13127 Roundup, San Diego, CA 92129. Telephone: 619.538.6187, email: vivianfolmer@netscape.net

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Orchid Conservation

from orchidweb.org

Over the millennia orchids have colonized the earth. From cloud forests to lowlands, tundra to desert, orchids have adapted in ways that amazed even Darwin. An astonishing 25,000 orchid species have evolved, with remarkable structures and diverse mechanisms for drought resistance, nutrient conservation, pollination and reproduction that even today are not fully understood.

Preservation and protection of orchids and their habitats in the United States and throughout the world are among the primary goals of the American Orchid Society (AOS). The AOS engages in worthwhile activities to these ends, including but not limited to:

- Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state conservation agencies and other similar government entities abroad identifying orchid species needing protection under the Endangered Species Act in the United States or similar laws abroad, and assisting with the recovery of those species listed.
- Supporting the principles of CITES and working with the United States and other nations' representatives to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) toward achieving workable solutions in conserving orchid species.
- Encouraging the propagation and cultivation of orchid species to maintain a diverse gene pool, especially for those species truly endangered.
- Funding scientific research directed at developing and improving methods of artificial propagation of endangered species, as well as their successful cultivation ...
- Formalizing procedures to ensure the protection and maintenance of orchid species in private and research collections, especially where neglect may endanger the plants.
- Developing and disseminating proper cultural information for species to ensure their survival and propagation.
- Supporting the acquisition and development of national parks and nature preserves worldwide.
- Encouraging the salvage and rescue of orchid species and other flora where practical or possible.

In these efforts, the American Orchid Society cooperates with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or counterpart agencies of other nations, The Nature Conservancy, the Center for Plant Conservation, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and representatives to CITES.

To educate orchid growers, *Orchids - The Magazine of the American Orchid Society* regularly publishes articles on conservation concerns around the world. The AOS Conservation Committee has produced slide programs for presentation to Affiliated Societies, as well as a traveling conservation exhibit specifically tailored to local regions. The AOS Education Committee is continuing to publish culture sheets for a vast array of cultivated genera.

What You Can Do

Unless their habitats are threatened, do not try to transplant native orchids to your own garden, for they will invariably decline and die. Do not pick orchid flowers in the wild; instead, educate others to respect native orchids and admire them in their native habitat.

Purchase only artificially propagated orchids, either from meristems or seed, which will help discourage the collecting of orchid species both in this country and abroad. Flask-grown orchids are often easier to establish than wild-collected plants and are more adaptable to your particular growing conditions. Flask-grown orchids usually produce superior clones because the parents are carefully selected for flower quality and plant vigor. Of utmost importance: pollinate virus-free orchid species already in your collection by cooperating with local growers who have other virus-free clones, and then distribute the seedlings among your local AOS Affiliated Society members. In an international arena, flasks orchids are not subject to CITES controls, so there is no need for CITES permits. The technology exists, and such mass production of orchid species - at home or in the laboratory - will effectively help to shut down the market for wild-collected plants.

Work to save your native orchids and their habitats by becoming familiar with them. Join The Nature Conservancy (1815 North Lynn Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209), which works to purchase threatened habitats and then monitors them through the Heritage Programs. Also support the Center for Plant Conservation (Missouri Botanical Garden, PO Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166). Donate your time and money to the never-ending task of preserving and managing habitats. Seek out the Conservation Committee of your local AOS Affiliated Society; if a committee does not exist, form one. Secure information on Affiliated Societies in your area from the American Orchid Society.

The Conservation Committee of your local orchid society can have tangible and significant impact on preserving North American orchids in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, your state's Native Plant Society, or the Heritage Program of The Nature Conservancy. Contact your state Heritage Program botanist; names, addresses and telephone numbers are available from the AOS.

Your society's conservation committee can help by notifying the Heritage Program of sensitive or threatened

habitats, informing the AOS of native orchid populations in your area, gathering data on populations and flowering habits, managing habitats, alerting enforcement officials of illegal collecting activities and helping divert developers from sensitive habitats.

Many orchids grow on highway rights-of-way. Through your local society, persuade your state highway department officials to avoid spraying the habitats with herbicides or mowing the plants in the right-of-way.

As the world's largest and probably most advanced plant family, orchids have developed many features to cope with natural disasters and predators, but they are not match for their worst enemy ... people.

Threats to North American orchids are caused primarily by loss of habitat. Every day orchid habitats are being lost to changing agricultural practices, deforestation, the control of range fires, and commercial and residential developments. Draining wetlands destroys entire ecosystems and deprives many orchids of soils suitable for germination and growth.

As nature's delicate balance is relentlessly altered, one native orchid after another is lost because of habitat destruction. By August 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed seven native orchids as threatened or endangered. *Goodyera tessellata* is presumed to be completely eliminated in Ohio. The same is true for *Liparis loeselii* in Washington State. Illinois lists 19 native orchids as either threatened or endangered under its state endangered species law, with two of them also listed under the United States Endangered Species Act. All of Florida's native orchids are threatened or endangered.

Collecting the showier species considerably reduces their reproductive potential. Lady slipper orchids (*Cypripedium* species) are still collected and sold through catalogs in this country. Even well-meaning people attempting to transplant native orchids meet with failure because they do not understand the highly specific relationships of the plants with soil microorganisms, which are extremely difficult to simulate in cultivation.

Abroad, the crisis is even worse. Tropical rainforests cover only seven percent of the earth's total land surface but are home to fully half of the plant and animal species on earth. Our tropical forests are being lost daily to slash-and-burn agriculture, firewood and charcoal production, mining, and huge logging operations - a loss of the world's most incredible diversity of life, its largest living laboratory of evolution. As the human population grows at alarming rates, many million acres of tropical forests are axed, eroded, leached of nutrients and reduced to wasteland each year.

Orchid species are becoming extinct faster than they can be described and classified. Biologists lament devastation of cloud-forest habitats that once yielded species new to

science. By 2030 AD, when the world population is projected to be 11 billion, the biodiversity of tropical forests will have vanished, a memory only available in history books. The wholesale export trade in wild-collected orchid species of Southeast Asia and tropical America poses another threat. Collection of thousands of orchids each year was depleting the reproductive potential of species - in some cases wiping them out -- in habitats that were not otherwise threatened.

The adoption of the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Fauna and Flora (CITES) by 120 nations has lessened this threat.

Why Bother?

Our purpose is simple: We wish to provide future generations with natural land that was never developed, wetlands that were never drained, forests that were never razed. By working to save orchids in their habitats here and abroad, we will preserve their beauty and role in the ecosystem and biosphere. The American Orchid Society, The Nature Conservancy, the Center for Plant Conservation and your local orchid society are most effective when our resources are combined. But you are needed in the battle to save our orchids -- before it is too late. The programs at the local, national and international levels that protect orchids depend on strong volunteer support and financial contributions from many orchid enthusiasts. Volunteer in some orchid-conservation project. And consider a financial contribution to a local Affiliated Society and/or to the AOS. You will find your increased involvement educational, challenging and fun. Most important of all, you will play a key role in securing the future for some of our most magnificent plant species.

GETTING READY FOR OUR 2002 ORCHID SHOW

By [Ben Machado](#) , Show Chairman

Here it is only July and already plans have started for next year's show. To start with, we need a show theme. Not just any show theme, but a show theme originated and selected by the members of the SDCOS. And for the member who comes up with the selected show theme there is a prize of a \$100 gift certificate, good at any one of the Orchid advertisers in the August 2001 edition of SDCOS Newsletter. Here is how it works:

The field is wide open, there is no particular focus; you just come up with whatever seems to have appeal. Send your entry to Ben Machado, 619.660.9810 voice/fax, email bmach16814@aol.com. The cut off date is Sunday August the 5th. All the entries will be compiled onto one sheet for members to vote on during the August 7th General Meeting. After the break the winner will be announced.

July/August Orchid Checklist

from orchidweb.org

Prepared by James Rose and Ned Nash.

Cattleya Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Phalaenopsis Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of

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heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Cymbidium Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

High-elevation Plants For cooler-growing plants, such as masdevallias, other pleurothallids and the like, the next few months will be a challenge. During the hottest times, keep your plants more shaded and be sure to keep the humidity level much higher. Do not let plants dry out. Delay any potting until the weather cools.

Laelia purpurata The flowering season of this majestic plant will be coming to an end, presenting a good time to report. As soon as the new roots start to appear, clean off old bark and repot into a clean medium- grade fir bark. Place the plant in a little less light and higher humidity to relieve stress until it is more established, which is about one month after potting..

Odontocidium Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as Odontocidium, Wilsonara and Colmanara, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

Vandaceous Genera Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.

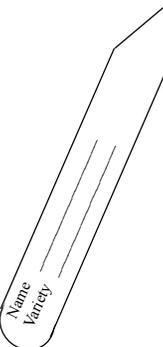
California Shows

Sorry! Nothing coming to California for at least the next three months. If you do know about a show in the California area, please contact the editors at editor@sdorchids.com.

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New Members

Normally I would ask that you take some time to give them a warm "hello!," but since I do not know who they are, you can ask Vivian Folmer and she will be happy to introduce them to you.

Vivian's phone number is 858.538.6187, or email vivianfollmer@netscape.net

Our Society thrives on membership participation. We hope you will let us all get to know you better through your participation in our upcoming shows, meetings, and events.

Beginner's Class

Thursday, July 5th - 6:30pm
Casa Del Prado - Room 104
submitted by [Duncan Werth](#)

Don't forget our meeting date has moved to July 5th! Everyone who went to May's Novice Class enjoyed the great presentation on Sarcophilus by [Paul Tuskes](#). For July, we have lined up Dave Reid of Reid's Orchids. If you've been out to Dave's place in the hills north of Escondido you know he grows a wide variety of orchids. So this month we have a double feature: Cattleyas and Vandas! If you want to learn to grow these amazing plants get over to Room 104!

HELP HOTLINE

The SDCOS offers this service to members who seek cultural information about their orchids. Here are some friendly hobbyists with a great deal of experience about certain types of orchids, and who have kindly volunteered to answer your questions.

Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, Vandaceous,
Greenhouse grown, West SD County
Forrest Robinson - 619.270.6105

Species, all types, Indoor and Outdoor
Ann & Paul Tuskes - 858.274.5829

Paphiopedilums
Ann Tuskes - 858.274.5829
Bob Hodges - 619.461.4915

Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, and Dendrobiums
Bob Swanson - 619.465.2297

Vandas, Ascocendas
Edith and Leno Galvan - 619.441.7503

Encyclias, Epidendrums, Laelias
Tom Osborn - 760.787.0282

Pleurothallids
Don van Kekerix - 619.224.4938

Cymbidiums
Loren Batchman - casa@orquideas.com
Sam DeMaria - 619.295.2951

Northeast County, all types
Dave Reid - 760.728.7996

San Diego West County, all types
Jean Beck - 619.435.8211

San Diego Central, Outdoor, all types
Jim Wright - 619.276.5295
Fred Tomaschke - 619.276.3225

San Diego East County, all types
James Masst - 619.443.2800
Bud Close - 619.444.8839

South County all types
Genie Hammond - 619.426.6831
Ed Marty - 619.470.7175

MINI SHOW COMING...

Submitted by [Michael Orser](#)

It is time again to seek out your prize winning, blooming orchids. Do you remember earlier this year when Cynthia Hill gave the Novice class on "how to get your orchids show ready?" Or do you have any tips on making a superb presentation? Why not email them to me (you can find my email address on the first page) so I can include it in the next newsletter?

Here's the nitty-gritty: The next mini show is July 27th - 29th. Friday is the registration date, Saturday and Sunday will be the show dates. Questions? Ask [Gary Pierwola](#).

AUCTION

by Ben Machado

Palomar Orchid Society is holding it's annual auction during the July General Meeting. The auction will be on July 13 starting at 6:00 PM at the usual meeting place (Vista Community Service Center, 642 Vista Village Drive). For more information, please contact Charles Young, 1st VP, Palomar Orchid Society, cmcyw@yahoo.com.

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted! Alma Marosz is looking for volunteers to learn how to make corsages for the Mini show. Also, any orchid growers willing to donate flowers are appreciated! Please call Alma at 619.583.0334 for further information.

Selling most of my species/hybrids collection. Well rooted and potted. Call Susan L. Coyne 760.753.1550, e-mail scoyne@nctimes.net for details, or stop by on July 14th (8am - 3pm). Many currently in flower/spike.

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NEW YORK TIMES

ARTICLE -

by Harry Tolen

I must apologize because I do not remember who sent me this article from the Times, but it is quite interesting and I think informative. Lots of the material you are going to say "Yeah! I know, I know!" "But I still think you will find it interesting.

"Orchids' Deceptions Are Part of a Grand Strategy" by Natalie Angier, New York Times Writer.

They are the P.T. Barnums of the flower kingdom, dedicated to the premise that there is a sucker born every minute: a sucker, that is, with antennae, a thorax, and an unquenchable thirst for nectar and love. They are the orchids, flowers so flashy of hue and fleshy of petal that they seem thoroughly decadent. And when it comes to their wiles for deceiving and sexually seducing insect pollinators, they are experts.

The orchid family is the largest of all plant groups, representing upwards of 25,000 species. The flowers are also among the most artfully deceptive, and they have assumed such an extravagant repertoire of disguises in color, odor, shape, and over-all engineering that for botanists and evolutionary biologists, they continue to yield a bounty of surprises. Charles Darwin was so enraptured by orchids that he wrote an entire book about their reproductive strategies. (Book is available in our library and also the Floral Association Library, Harry).

Yet only now are scientists beginning to understand why the flowers are such great pretenders. They are learning crucial nuances of orchid biology and pinpointing precisely how orchids differ from other groups of flowers in such matters as fertility, life span, and their position in the ecosystem.

Strategies of Rare Species

For all their eccentricities, orchids provide an excellent model for studying basic questions like why some organisms reproduce early and often, while others prefer a statelier and more far-sighted approach to insuring their genetic legacy. The flowers are also helping researchers better understand the strategies of naturally rare species, an insight that is crucial if some of the earth's more fragile ecosystems are to be preserved.

Some scientists are particularly anxious to study orchids before some of the more exotic specimens vanish altogether. Not only are orchids falling prey to the loss of habitat in the rain forest, said researchers, but a renaissance of interest in orchid growing and orchid collecting is encouraging entrepreneurial plant poachers to strip forests of their most gorgeous orchid species.

"There's been a tremendous increase recently in the number of orchid enthusiasts," said Keith Lloyd, curator of the orchid breeding program at the New York Botanical Garden, one of the largest repositories of orchids in the world. "The flower has such appeal, it is an elitist flower, and it is very beautiful."

Often Decoys for Bees

Of course, beauty is often in the eye of the beholder. Some orchids look and smell like female bees, presenting irresistible decoys to male bees on the prowl. Others so precisely resemble female wasps that the males of the species will molest them time and again, alternately picking up and depositing pollen sacs with each new act of what is called pseudo-copulation.

Another type of orchid has the aroma of rotting meat, coaxing any carrion beetles in the neighborhood to come hither. Some orchids mimic the beauty and fragrance of other types of flowers that, in the tradition of floral courtesy, persuade insects to visit them by offering a sup of nectar.

But the skinflint orchids do not bother to generate the precious liqueur, instead rewarding any bee foolish enough to fall for the ploy with nothing more than a sticky pat of pollen.

"I've seen some bees come out of an orchid with such a big load of pollen stuck to their backs that they can hardly fly," said Mr. Lloyd.

Master Mimics - Aping Distinctive Traits of Pollinator

Scientists say that the details of the resemblance between orchids and whatever plant or animal they happen to be aping provide a clear window into how other creatures perceive the world around them.

"It gives us a sort of bird's eye view of the sensory capacities of the pollinator, the things it will pay attention to," said Dr. Thomas Eisner, an evolutionary biologist at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. who studies plant/insect

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interactions. "In some cases it's a pattern, in some it's a chemical, in others it's a shape. In its mimicry, the orchid adapts whatever trait is most outstanding to the pollinator."

Some orchids do offer a nectar bonus to a pollinator needed to transfer the sperm packet from one plant to the ovaries of another. But the flowers are finicky and focus their efforts to beckon a very particular emissary. One type of orchid, the *Angracum sesquipedale*, a native of Africa and Madagascar, will release a waft of jasmine-like perfume in the evening hours to attract a type of moth that only emerges after dark. The moth happens to have a proboscis, or tongue, that is 12 inches long, which is just the length needed to reach down into the deep tube of the flower, where its nectar can be found.

"The moth will drink the nectar and detach the anther cap, where the pollen is stored," said Mr. Lloyd. "Then it will go on to the next flower, get into a position where it can again suck up the nectar with its long tongue, and hopefully deposit the pollen from the previous interlude."

A similarly magnanimous orchid, found in Central & South America, generates aromatic oil that the males of a particular bee species desperately need if they are to woo females. Landing on the orchids, the males use little brushes on their front legs to sop up droplets of the oil. They then store the precious substance in their hollow hind legs, to be released later as an enticement to females. Their close contact with the orchids results in pollen transfer.

But such loving synchrony of purpose is rare, and most orchids are simple charlatans. Even their name, orchid, comes from something of a ruse. Seeing the wrinkled bulbs that grow at the base of the orchid stem, the Greeks named the entire plant after their word for testicle. But the structures are not even true bulbs, in the fashion of a tulip bulb, which contains an entire fetal tulip. Instead, an orchid bulb serves merely as a storage structure for water and nutrients.

Little about orchids is what it seems. Raymond Chandler, in "The Big Sleep," compared the texture of orchids to the feel of human flesh. The artist Georgia O'Keeffe did not

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have to use much painterly license to lend her depictions of orchid blooms an erotically feminine air. Many orchids are nicknamed after what their flowers resemble, including spiders, butterflies, baskets, shoes, peas and donkeys.

But all orchids have a few details in common, notably a protruding lip, which tempts insects to land on it like an airport runway, and an internal column, which contains both the anther cap and the female ovaries.

Orchids seeds are tiny, the size of dust particles, and therefore can carry no protein or nutrients. Thus, if an orchid seed is to grow, it must gain its nutrition from a fungus growing nearby. Different species of orchid rely on different fungal helpers to germinate. "It may be a symbiotic relationship," said Dr. Robert Dressler of the Florida Natural History Museum, one of the nation's leading orchid authorities. "But we've yet to determine what, if anything, the fungus gets back from the orchid."

The flower's entire *modus operandi* seems to be how to get something for nothing. Many species are epiphytes, tree dwellers that let their roots dangle down slothfully to catch vitamins from bird droppings, rotting leaves and other material washed down from above by the rain.

Outsmarted Tricks Backfire, Limiting Fertility

But laziness alone does not explain the orchid. Many seem to have a touch of self destructiveness about them. They can be so mean and deceptive toward their potential pollinators that insects learn to avoid them, resulting in extremely low rates of fertility. Some orchids, for example, use a slingshot system to shoot their pollen capsules at bees that have alighted on their petals, hurling out the packets with such force that the bees are often knocked long distances. These bees quickly learn to shun the floral snipers.

In the most extensive study of an orchid strategy that nearly backfires, Dr. Douglas Gill, a professor of zoology at the University of Maryland, has focused on the pink lady's slipper orchid, a particularly flamboyant orchid found in pockets around the United States. Like so many other

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orchids, the flower looks and smells as though it were engorged with nectar. But not only is it as dry inside as an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, it is also a nasty trap. When a bee alights upon the lower lip of the lady slipper, hoping for a treat the flower's hinged upper lip will close down on the insect, caging the creature inside. The only escape route is through a passageway out the rear. As the bee fights its way to freedom, it must pass by the anther stem, inadvertently picking up a cap of pollen.

But so unpleasant has the encounter been that the creature is unlikely ever to venture near another lady's slipper. For the orchid, that chariness is dangerous, because it takes two acts of insect gullibility to complete fertilization, the first to pick up the pollen and the second to smear it onto another flower.

"The insect has spent a devil of a time squeezing out through a little labyrinthine passage," said Dr. Gill. "It got absolutely nothing to eat from the visit, it was a miserable experience and the bee is pretty angry by the time it's through. Few bees are stupid enough to go through that ordeal all over again.

The Lottery How Rare Species Hit the Jackpot

Dr. Gill and others are beginning to piece together a portrait of orchid strategy that explains such apparently counterproductive behavior. They believe that the flowers are nature's quintessential gamblers, willing to bank everything on a potentially enormous payoff. Most flower plants have a high annual rate of fertilization, but when they are fertilized, each plant only produces one or a handful of seeds. By contrast, very few individual orchid plants will breed during any given year. But when one is fertilized, it hits paydirt. "They work on the lottery system," said Dr. Richard Primack, a professor of biology at Boston University, who studies the lady slipper. "The chances of any flower being visited are very low, but when the flower is fertilized it produces tens or thousands of seeds. It's exactly like winning the lottery."

A win or lose strategy seems to benefit many orchid species. There may be 30,000 different orchid species, but most of

the species count few members among them. Orchids are naturally rare flowers, living high in trees or in widely dispersed stands on the ground. As a rule, said scientists, rare species evolve exaggerated, risky and highly specific reproductive strategies. They are custom designed to survive in their limited niches.

"You have to look at life from the orchid's point of view," said Dr. Primack. "most species live at very low densities, and cannot afford to waste nectar on an insect that is likely to rummage around for any old sweetness and drop off pollen at any type flower." Instead, many orchids target all their efforts at attracting one type of pollinator. Hence, an orchid evolves the shape of one species of female wasp, or it will emit a pungency of interest to one type of beetle or it will ensnare one kind of bee and even manage to ensnare some dimwits twice.

Orchids can afford to wait for the perfect pollinator. They are among the longest-lived of all flowering plants, and they have very few natural enemies. As a result, far more orchids will survive from one year to the next than will plants of most species.

"They seem content to wait around for pollinators that just don't have the sense to avoid them," said Dr. Dressier.

And orchids may prefer not to waste so much of their energy on making babies. Studying the lady-slipper, Dr. Primack and his graduate student, Pamela Hall, have discovered there is a high cost to reproduction. In a lab experiment comparing non-fertilized plants with those they hand-pollinated, the scientists found that every time a pollinated orchid generated a seed-pod, it dropped 10% of its leaf and plant size.

"Our experimental plants are now dramatically smaller and tend not to flower, compared to the control plants, which are vigorous and still flowering," said Dr. Pennock. For orchids, at least, the key to the fountain of youth may be to avoid making more of yourself.

("Moderation" I think it's called! Harry)

OBSERVATIONS - by Harry

As I was typing this article it brought up recollections of other things I have read and seen in my own greenhouse. First and foremost I think you should pay particular attention to the part about how much it takes out of a plant to produce a seed pod.

10% is not much from a big strong plant, especially Cattleya types. But it seems to be always one of the weaker plants you have that produced a very special flower for you. Now you must consider the energy use from the plant to produce seed.

Some folks will get downright ambitious and hang several seed pods on the same plant. I have always thought it took something

out of the plant. Early in my growing experience I tried to make pods on several of my plants even though they were just cuttings blooming for the first time or seedlings blooming for the first time. I remember losing several of the plants even though they did produce a nice seed pod and plenty of seed were obtained. I attributed this to my poor culture, but in the back of my mind I thought it might have been too much to ask of the plant. How is one to know? (I wonder if Magic Johnson will get to read this?)

But now someone studying the plants under this very condition has found the same thing to happen. I guess it's now official.

My last plant this happened to was a division of Laelia tenebrosa 'Nigrescens' I had gotten from Orchidario

Catarense in Brazil. It was really a very small piece they sent, like two bulbs and a starting new growth. I let the growth mature and the plant rooted nicely and flowered with two flowers. Naturally I had to hang a pod on it. The pod developed nicely but by the time I took the pod off I thought I was going to lose the plant.

The new growth that had started right after it had flowered stopped growing and eventually turned black and rotted. I thought perhaps it had gotten too strong a dose of fertilizer. I immediately repotted it and kept it to the dry side. I made it a point to mist it with a very light fertilizer solution. Eventually it started two new growths, and without me interfering this time they are developing nicely. I think

the article you just read will help me to keep me from hanging pods all over it the next time it flowers.

The new growths were one half the size of the last growth that flowered. Perhaps in this situation it would be better to let just one of the new leads develop.

There have been all kinds of studies on orchids over the years and they still draw the scientists just as easily as they attract pollinators. They have been linked to every mythological critter every thought up, and the exotic words and links are continually created by new authors. Everyone seems to agree they are mysterious. Oh yes!

This, as I will have you notice, was a reprint from our January 1992 SDCOS issue written by Harry Tolen.

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Orchids are _____

(A) fun (B) a mystery (C) challenging

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(A) happy (B) romantic (C) relaxed

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(A) growing (B) collecting (C) learning

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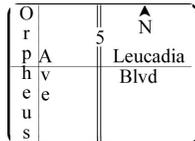
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A NEW FACE ON THE BOARD

by Ivan and Rosemary Harison

Ivan Harrison, the 2001-2 Second Vice President, is probably not familiar to many of you – whether long-time members or newcomers to The Society – so here's some background.

Ivan and his wife, Rosemary, are originally from England and have called San Diego home for the last 23 years (although they still have the accent!). Having survived with only a handful of orchids over the past 20 years, their obsession was ignited during a "free" trip to Hawaii a couple of years ago!

After joining the Society last year, reading all the orchid books he could lay his hands on and asking a million questions, Ivan built an orchid conservatory at his home in Santee. This orchid paradise has two fish ponds, a 8'x12' wall of water over red volcanic rock, misters, a swamp cooler, fans galore and almost 700 orchids! X species, Y genus, etc.

When not tending his orchids, Ivan is participating in his

other passion, stock car racing. Ivan drives a 2000 Ford Taurus at Cajon Speedway and has been competing since 1985. He won his divisional championship in 1996. In his spare time, Ivan restores antique furniture at The Furniture Hospital in Santee.

Ivan says, "My mission in joining the Board of SDCOS is to provide an environment at the Beginners' Meetings which will foster participation, knowledge, and, most of all, fun. Newcomers are the lifeblood of any organization – my job is to make you feel welcome, help you to continue your journey into the wonderful world of orchids, and introduce you to our Society mentors who can give you answers to your questions. I look forward to meeting each one of you personally at both the July meeting and the Mini Show."



INTRODUCTION TO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Submitted by Siv Garrod

What Is Parliamentary Procedure?

It is a set of rules for conduct at meetings, that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion.

Why is Parliamentary Procedure Important?

Because it's a time tested method of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings. It can be adapted to fit the needs of any organization. Today, Robert's Rules of Order newly revised is the basic handbook of operation for most clubs, organizations and other groups. So it's important that every one know these basic rules!

Organizations using parliamentary usually follow a fixed order of business. Below is a typical example:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call of members present.
3. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
4. Officers reports.
5. Committee reports.
6. Special orders — Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

The method used by members to express themselves is in the form of moving motions. A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue. Individual members can:

1. Call to order.
2. Second motions.
3. Debate motions.
4. Vote on motions.

There are four Basic Types of Motions:

1. Main Motions: The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.

2. Subsidiary Motions: Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled, and is voted on before a main motion.
3. Privileged Motions: Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.
4. Incidental Motions: Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

How are Motions Presented?

1. Obtaining the floor
 - a. Wait until the last speaker has finished.
 - b. Rise and address the Chairman by saying, "Mr. Chairman, or Mr. President."
 - c. Wait until the Chairman recognizes you.
2. Make Your Motion
 - a. Speak in a clear and concise manner.
 - b. Always state a motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we ..." rather than, "I move that we do not ...".
 - c. Avoid personalities and stay on your subject.
3. Wait for Someone to Second Your Motion
4. Another member will second your motion or the Chairman will call for a second.
5. If there is no second to your motion it is lost.
6. The Chairman States Your Motion
 - a. The Chairman will say, "it has been moved and seconded that we ..." Thus placing your motion before the membership for consideration and action.
 - b. The membership then either debates your motion, or may move directly to a vote.
 - c. Once your motion is presented to the membership by the chairman it becomes "assembly property", and cannot be changed by you without the consent of the members.
7. Expanding on Your Motion
 - a. The time for you to speak in favor of your motion is at this point in time, rather than at the time you present it.
 - b. The mover is always allowed to speak first.
 - c. All comments and debate must be directed to the chairman.
 - d. Keep to the time limit for speaking that has been established.
 - e. The mover may speak again only after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the Chairman.

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SDCOS Board Meeting

June 12, 2001. Submitted by Siv Garrod. Meeting called to order at 19:08
Present: Gary Pierwola, Fred Weber, Bud Close, Barbie Mays, Dave Mays,
Mike Orser, Ben Machado, Loren Batchman, Alma Marosz, Sam DeMaria,
Cindy Hill, Paul Tuskes, Duncan Werth, David Graham, and Siv Garrod.

REPORTS

1. Last meeting's minutes were read, and approved by motion
2. Treasurer - Barbie Mays - Report for May was presented, and approved by motion.
3. Acting first vice president - Ben Machado - Denise Wilson from Boulder Colorado will present a talk titled "Orchid conservation in Costa Rica". She will also provide plants for the raffle.
4. Second vice president - Duncan Werth - Dave Reid will talk about caring for Cattleyas and Vandas at the novice class in July.
5. Show chairman - Ben Machado - Advance ticket sales are still coming in, as well as books, t-shirts, and polos. Finance report for the 2001 show is not yet final.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Issues from the 2000 show. A motion was made and seconded that the SDCOS should buy back the 4 banners Cindy Hill bought from the society at a reduced price. That sale was approved by the 2000 show chairman - Bud Close. After a discussion the motion was withdrawn. An amendment to the by laws will be made, that any sale of SDCOS property must be approved by the board. The check from the sale was entered in the July financial report. All other expenses were recorded correctly and there were no missing expenses from the 2000 show.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Newsletter editor - Mike Orser - The deadline for submitting articles has been extended to the Friday after the board meeting.
 2. Ben Machado would like to start a contest for next years theme. He asked the board to approve of a \$100 gift certificate as a prize to the winner of the contest. The certificate will be redeemable at any of the show vendors. The contest will be announced in the July newsletter and voted on by the members at the August general meeting. Suggestions should be submitted to Ben. The certificate was approved.
 3. SDCOS Webmaster - Duncan Werth - suggested that we pay for our Web site yearly. The motion was made and seconded, to pay the \$359.40 in July.
 4. The projector stand is sometimes difficult to find. Ben Machado asked if the society should buy our own stand. As an alternative maybe a shelf could be made to the pillar in the meeting room. The Park will be questioned if that is a possibility.
 5. Fred Weber announced that he is retiring from the board after 7 years.
 6. Articles that are sent to the editors that are not commercial will be printed at the editors discretion. If there is a some doubt about the article in question, the editors will ask the board for approval. Any for profit announcement will be charged as an ad.
- Meeting adjourned 20:18

8. Putting the Question to the Membership
 - a. The Chairman asks, "Are you ready to vote on the question?"
 - b. If there is no more discussion, a vote is taken.
 - c. On a motion to move the previous question may be adapted.

Voting on a Motion:

The method of vote on any motion depends on the situation and the by-laws of policy of your organization. There are five methods used to vote by most organizations, they are:

1. By Voice — The Chairman asks those in favor to say, "aye", those opposed to say "no". Any member may move for a exact count.
2. By Roll Call — Each member answers "yes" or "no" as his name is called. This method is used when a record of each person's vote is required.
3. By General Consent — When a motion is not likely to be opposed, the Chairman says, "if there is no objection ...". The membership shows agreement by their silence, however if one member says, "I object," the item must be put to a vote.
4. By Division — This is a slight verification of a voice vote. It does not require a count unless the chairman so desires. Members raise their hands or stand.
5. By Ballot — Members write their vote on a slip of paper, this method is used when secrecy is desired.

There are two other motions that are commonly used that relate to voting.

1. Motion to Table — This motion is often used in the attempt to "kill" a motion. The option is always present, however, to "take from the table", for reconsideration by the membership.
2. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely — This is often used as a means of parliamentary strategy and allows opponents of motion to test their strength without an actual vote being taken. Also, debate is once again open on the main motion.

Parliamentary Procedure is the best way to get things done at your meetings. But, it will only work if you use it properly.

1. Allow motions that are in order.
2. Have members obtain the floor properly.
3. Speak clearly and concisely.
4. Obey the rules of debate.
5. *Most importantly*, BE COURTEOUS.

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Your New 2002 Board Of Directors!

by Michael Orser

At the annual meeting , June 5th 2001, the members of the San Diego County Orchid Society unanimously elected these members for the following positions:

Gary Pierwola
President



Ben Machado
First Vice President

Ivan Harrison
Second Vice President
(picture on page 11)



David Graham
Board of Directors
(Associate Newsletter Editor)

Rommy Reyes
Secretary
(sorry, no picture available)

Barbie Mays
Treasurer

Let's try not to give them a hard time, after all, they are people like you and me.



Other People Who've Let Me Take Take Their Snapshot

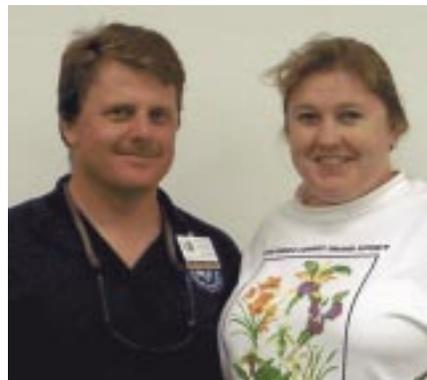
by Michael Orser

At the annual meeting , this past June 5th, I caught the chance to introduce you to some of the people who help out in the meetings with various tasks. Now you can introduce yourselves because you now will be able to place the faces with their names.



Joan Close
Coffee and Donuts

Marjorie Kuhlmann
Plant Auction Table
Newsletter Preparer
Newsletter Mailer



Michael & Nicole Orser
Newsletter Editors

Paul Tuskes
By-Laws Committee
Chariman
Conservation Committee
general dogooder
etc.



DATES TO REMEMBER...

Alma Marosz
Parliamentarian
Superb Corsage Maker



July 5th, 6:30 pm
Beginner's Class
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

July 5th, 7:30 pm
General Meeting
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108



Loren Batchman
Board of Directors

July 7th, 9:00 am
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday each month
Paul or Ann Tuskes 858.274.5829

July 10th, 7:00 pm
SDCOS Board Meeting
Second Tuesday each month
Balboa Park
Siv Garrod 619.483.8787

Sam DeMaria
Board of Director



July 13th, 7:30 pm
Palomar Orchid Society Meeting
Second Friday each month
Vista Community Center
Dave or Vera Stankey 959.498.7122

July 18th
Cymbidium Society Meeting
Third Wednesday each month
Carlsbad Women's Club
Larry Phillips 619.746.5518

Did you want your picture in the paper? All you have to do is catch me at the meeting and let me know to take your picture.

-Michael Orser

July 20th
Zoo Orchid Greenhouses Open House
Third Friday each month
Janette Gerrity 619.231.1515 ext. 4306

July 27th - 29th
Mini Show
Balboa Park
Admission: FREE
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Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

**July's Guest
Speaker,
Denise Wilson,
On Assignment**



Week	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	5	6	12	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Fourth of July

by Michael Orser

As the Editor, I would like to take the time to remind you that in San Diego County alone, last year, we had too many deaths due to drinking and driving during the Fourth of July weekend.

Remember to be safe and drink responsibly!

Above all, Happy 225th Birthday United States of America!

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