



*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.*

Volume 79

July 2005

[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

# San Diego County Orchid Society

## NOVICE MEETING

July 5, 2005, 6:30 PM– Casa Del Prado—Room 104

By Bill Molnar, 2nd Vice President

After a full year of my asking him, Wade Bogren has finally agreed to speak at the July novice class, so don't miss it. Wade will show you how to take your current home environment and turn it into an orchid paradise. He can do it. I've seen Wade and Gerdi's home and backyard. Wade is extremely knowledgeable about orchids, he's entertaining, and he keeps things simple for the beginner. You don't need a greenhouse to grow orchids. Wade will explain how to do it.

Thank you to Edith Galvan, Connie Brown and Felisa Acantilado for the excellent job they did at the June novice class. They shared their growing techniques and a lot of good pointers on how to grow award-winning cymbidiums. Now it's up to us to use those ideas; if we provide the same consistent dedication to our cymbidiums that they provide to theirs, then we can plan on having gorgeous cymbidiums next spring.

## GENERAL MEETING

July 5, 2005, 7:30 PM– Casa Del Prado—Room 101

This month's general meeting will feature a widescreen computer slide show on some of the new hybrids and breakthroughs in the hybridization of *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cynoches*, and *Mormodes*. The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 28 years and hybridizing for 18 of those years. His mini-*Cattleya* and *Diacrium* crosses are well known in orchid circles and have become prized plants in many orchid collections. Fred is a passionate orchid grower whose interests in orchids are broad and varied. He grows and breeds *cattleyas*, *Cynoches*, *bulbophylums*, *maxillarias*, *paphiopedilums*, *zygopetalums*, *Australian dendrobiums*, *Sarcochilus*, and a few other unusual things. He is a superb grower of high

quality orchids and his plants have received over 100 quality and cultural awards from the American Orchid Society.

Learn more about *Catasetum*, *Cynoches* and *Mormodes* on page 8.



*Cynoches haagii* 'SVO'  
[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

## San Diego County Orchid Society

### Board of Directors

President:	Genie Hammond
First VP:	Ron Kaufmann
Second VP:	Bill Molnar
Secretary:	Lynn Dornfeld
Treasurer:	Lynn Ford
Membership:	Tess Taylor
Directors:	Pam Peters
	David Brown
	Sam DeMaria

### Membership

We invite you to join the San Diego County Orchid Society. With your membership you will receive the newsletter and many other benefits.

To join, please send your check for \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a dual membership, payable to SDCOS , to:

Tess Taylor  
SDCOS Membership  
P.O. Box 161020  
San Diego, CA 92176  
tess\_mazza@hotmail.com

### Meetings

San Diego Orchid Society meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

Novice Class: 6:30 p.m., Room 104  
General Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Room 101

### Newsletter Entries

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, photos, or announcements related to orchids, please contact Christopher Croom at (619) 583-3804 or batescroom@cox.net.

### Advertisers

Please contact Lynn Ford at (619) 283-4172 or lynnford10@earthlink.net.

Information for the August newsletter must be submitted by July 13.



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## Dates to Remember– San Diego County and California

July 2nd, 9:00 a.m.

### **SDCOS Species Group Meeting**

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

July 4, 7:00 p.m.

### **Quail Botanical Gardens Judging Center**

First Monday of the month

July 5th, 6:30 p.m.

### **SDCOS Novice Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

July 5th, 7:30 p.m.

### **SDCOS General Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

July 8th, 9th, 10th

### **International Orchid Fair**

Earl Warren Showgrounds

Santa Barbara, CA

www.orchidfair.com

July 12th, 7:00 p.m.

### **SDCOS Board Meeting**

Second Tuesday of the month

Balboa Park

Lynn Dornfeld (619) 889-4612

### **Cymbidium Society Meeting**

Will NOT meet in July or August

July 15th, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.

### **San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey**

The third Friday of the month

(orchid greenhouse is open)

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

July 15th, 6:45 p.m.

### **Palomar Orchid Society Meeting**

The third Friday of the month

The Carlsbad Women's Club

3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad

Melana Walding (761) 295-7228

July 22nd, 23rd, 24th

### **Orchid Mini-Show**

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

Details on Page 4

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## Net Nuggets

By Ron Kaufmann, 1st Vice President  
kaufmann@sandiego.edu

### Orchids, Limited [www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com)

I have a definite predilection for orchid nurseries with informative, dynamic web sites. A list of tempting plants will pique my interest, but a site that also offers useful information and is updated regularly will keep me coming back again and again. A personal favorite is produced and maintained by Orchids, Limited, in Plymouth, Minnesota. Here you'll find a searchable online catalog with descriptions and color photographs of many of the plants they sell. Advice on repotting, fertilizing and other aspects of orchid care, as well as useful cultural information for the major groups of commonly grown orchids also are offered.

The "Plant of the Week" is an especially valuable feature. Each week a different species or hybrid is profiled, complete with color photograph, geographic distribution, flowering habit, repotting suggestions, and cultural preferences. Past "Plant of the Week" pages are available in a library that now contains over 350 entries. Owner Jerry Fischer has a particular affinity and talent for slipper orchids; Orchids, Limited offers an extensive selection of paphiopedilums and phragmipediums for the novice and connoisseur alike.

## San Diego Orchid Society Mini-Show

The SDCOS will be holding their quarterly mini show on July 23rd and 24th at the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park. This is not an exclusive showcase for miniature orchids, but rather a small show. All SDCOS members are encouraged to bring in their favorite orchids.

Bring in your plants on Friday, July 22 between the hours of 6-8 p.m. or early Saturday morning from 8-10 a.m. Plants can be picked up after 4:30 or 5p.m. on Sun. depending on the crowds.

The show opens to the public after judging until 5p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

### Is Your Membership About to Expire?

The July Newsletter mailing address labels contain each member's current expiration date. If there are any questions about the date on your mailing address label, please see the Membership Committee at the next meeting or email Tess ([tess\\_mazza@hotmail.com](mailto:tess_mazza@hotmail.com)) or Bob ([bob1clark@san.rr.com](mailto:bob1clark@san.rr.com)).

If the date is July 1, 2005 or earlier please renew at the next meeting or at your earliest convenience.



Catasetum tenebrosum 'Ed Wise #3'  
[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)



Catasetum Donna Wise 'David' HCC/AOS  
[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)



Odontoglossum retusum  
C. Croom

## 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 they have kindly volunteered to answer your questions.

### **Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, Vandaceous**

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Forrest Robinson (858) 270-6105

### **Species, all types**

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### **Paphiopedilums**

Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829  
Bob Hodges (619) 461-4915

### **Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, 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](mailto: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) 276-3235

### **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

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## Article: Bud Blast

By Christopher Croom

So, you bought an orchid a year ago, and it spiked for you and looked like it was going to bloom, but suddenly all the flower buds shriveled up and dropped off while you looked on in horror, crying for days as the horticultural masterpiece you were looking forward to helping create for the last year crashed. Desperate and despondent, you go and lick your wounds in a cave for a few weeks, blocking out the outside world entirely and wondering how you could possibly be such a bad orchid parent. Does this scenario sound familiar? While mothers often experience postpartum depression, orchid growers often experience what feels like a postpartum/postmortem depression when they encounter bud blast, or the annoying condition of your orchid flowers shriveling up and dying on the spike before they open.

Bud blast, or blasting, is the scourge of the orchid world, especially for plants that only bloom once a year, but there are a number of things that orchid growers can do to make sure that the flowers open completely and beautifully.

Firstly, think of the things that orchids generally like, all of which help them bloom properly: enough water, ample humidity, and clean and moving air (not ironically, these are things that people like and need, too). Often, orchids grown inside the home do not have access to relatively clean, moving air that has a decent humidity level (50% or higher), and this can be a major factor in successfully blooming most of the members of your collection. While anyone can get an orchid to spike eventually after giving it enough light, not killing it, and giving it enough time to establish; many good orchid growers have a hard time opening the blooms that they have waited so patiently for.

While each orchid is different and has individual cultural requirements, there are a few things that all orchids need in order to successfully open their flowers. One of the reasons why orchids captivate us so much is how many flowers they have and how much energy each plant devotes to the inflorescence. Many orchids have flowers that are larger than the plant, and if the animal kingdom had proportionately-sized reproductive structures, then humans would typically be markedly, physically different than we are now. The point here, is that the orchid often expends an incredible amount of energy and resources to produce the spike and flowers.

With this in mind, orchids generally need more water and fertilizer, in addition to good air circulation and

humidity, while flowers are developing (but usually not as much water and fertilizer after the blooms have faded). Many orchids will successfully bloom only if given enough water, and the structures they produce in a short number of weeks or months give off a lot of moisture, which dries out the orchid plant itself very quickly. Spikes, buds, and flowers all release large amounts of water vapor through transpiration (especially if the blooms or inflorescences are large for the size of the plant), and the grower should ideally compensate for this moisture release by increasing watering when the spikes and flowers are developing. Plants, like all vascular lifeforms, need enough water to perform all of their hydraulic functions properly, and water pressure is one of the things that help buds open.

Air quality cannot be underrated or overlooked. Garbage, smoke, cooking fumes, and ripening fruit can all emit gases that will make orchid blooms drop before they open. If you've been keeping an orchid in the kitchen next to the fruit bowl or trash can, it probably won't bloom for you (and it's practically a miracle if it does, unless it's a virtually bomb-proof *Phalaenopsis* hybrid). Ripening fruit releases ethylene gas, which is particularly harmful to developing blooms, and some fruits release it at much higher quantities than others, so beware, and maybe wait until the flowers open someplace else before bringing them into the kitchen (that is, if you *have* to display them next to the fruit bowl at all).

Finally, tiny insects or other arthropods, such as thrips and mites can make buds blast, and often the orchid grower may not be able to see them or the damage they cause. But unfortunately, anything you might spray the orchid buds with that would kill the thrips or mites could also cause the buds to blast, as pesticides, and even foliar spray fertilizers can easily wipe out new blooms. (Here's where you make your judgment call.) So, this is yet another reason to be careful when spraying. And, sometimes a simple q-tip dipped in rubbing alcohol and then wiped on the buds does the trick and allows you to keep your blooms later, so it is a good idea to try this technique before you reach for the neem (which often doesn't work), the insecticidal soap (which usually requires repeated applications), or the more caustic organophosphates (Orthenex, malathion, etc., which are very bad for you and can easily be absorbed through the skin). But, if your orchid's buds blast, look on the bright side—maybe the orchid wants to teach you to have more patience and discipline by making you wait another year.

-Happy Growing!

**WOW!**

Did you see the Cattleya Pamela Hetherington in December's ORCHIDS Magazine?

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Catasetum Donna Wise 'Kathleen' AM/AOS  
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# Catasetum, Cycnoches and Mormodes

By Fred Clarke and Ron Kaufmann, 1st Vice President

Catasetum, Cycnoches and Mormodes are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical,” of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These unusual orchids all have fleshy pseudobulbs with large, veined leaves that go briefly deciduous in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. In spring or fall, often when leafless, they produce colorful, arching or pendulous racemes with separate male and female flowers. The male flowers exhibit a pollen shooting mechanism when their trigger is pushed. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions.

Commercially, Catasetum, Cycnoches (or “Swan” orchids), and Mormodes (or “Goblin” orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of cymbidiums, cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, dendrobiums, epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.



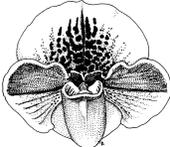
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Come learn more about Catasetum, Cycnoches, and Mormodes next month at the general meeting, July 5th at 7:30 p.m. at the Casa Del Prado, Room 101 in Balboa Park! The speaker will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids.

## Receive your SDCOS Newsletter by E-Mail

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[bob1clark@san.rr.com](mailto:bob1clark@san.rr.com)





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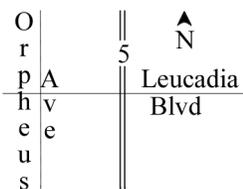
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# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## SDCOS Board of Directors Meeting

June 14, 2005: Called to order at 7:22PM

*Present:* Genie Hammond, Charlie Fouquette, David Brown, Bob Clark, Lynn Ford, Bill Molnar, Lynn Dornfeld.

*Others Present:* Ron Kaufmann, Lisa Humphreys, Pam Peters, Christopher Croom.

### Reports

1) *Secretary*—Lynn Dornfeld—minutes from the May meeting were read, reviewed and approved by motion.

2) *Treasurer*—Lynn Ford—May report was read, reviewed and approved by motion. 2005 Show Account Report was read, discussed and filed for audit.

3) *Acting First Vice President*—Genie Hammond—July speaker: TBA for July.

4) *Second Vice President*—Bill Molnar—July Novice Meeting Speaker: Wade Bogren

**TOPIC: HOW TO GROW ORCHIDS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD.**

### Old Business

1) David Brown will be attending Balboa Park Meeting 6/16/05. More to come on road closures, fees for meetings, etc.

2) Genie still has to try to contact Domingo Cabrera regarding speakers—more to come.

### New Business

1) Owen Smith has offered to be our Webmaster, per Lynn Ford.

2) Marjorie Kuhlmann asked for e-mail addresses to send newsletters out to decrease our mailing fees. Discussion regarding procurement of e-mail

addresses via the newsletter. Bob Clark has taken over the database project for the directory.

3) Lynn Ford brought up annual fees for ads. She has collected from 12 advertisers so far. Discussion by Charlie Fouquette that we work with SDSU Library to advertise the book collection for free and have David Brown write a book review each month highlighting an interesting book from the collection.

4) Mini-Show info for July needs to be included in the next newsletter and at next meeting to allow members time to prepare for the show. David will get the date and communicate it to Chris Croom to include in next newsletter.

5) The group discussed more ways to get SDCOS's name out to the public. Lynn discussed a program at Petco Park for non-profit fundraising. David B. to contact the County Television Network for advertising.

6) Genie discussed the installation of officers at July meeting. Genie Hammond is new President, Ron Kaufmann is new First Vice President, Pam Peters is new Director, replacing Charlie Fouquette, whose term is up.

7) Info. was given to Chris Croom to be included in newsletter.

8) It was suggested that business cards be considered as promotional aids for Bd. Members, to be handed out when discussing SDCOS business and/or activities.

### **NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS**

**Any volunteers from the last spring SDCOS show who have not picked up their t-shirts and still want one should contact Gary or Genie.**



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## Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer, that most of your repotting has been completed, and that all your orchids are growing rapidly and vigorously right now, in the peak of our growing season. (Of course, since we live in San Diego, this peak will continue for another three months or so—lucky us.)

Don't forget to come to July's general meeting, where Fred Clarke will be talking about Mormodes, Catasetum, and Cynoches hybrids. Fred is certainly a giant in the world of hybridizing these genera; in the great traditions of Wilson, Coleman, and Burrage, he has a multi-generic hybrid named for him, too—the trigeneric (Catasetum, Clowesia, and Mormodes) *Fredclarkeara*. You may have seen pictures of his plants on page 336 of the May, 2005 issue of *Orchids* magazine, and I have to say that *Fredclarkeara* After Dark 'SVO Black is Black' AM/AOS is truly one of the blackest orchids in the whole world, and true black colors in orchid blooms are even rarer than true blues. Most importantly, if you have a south-facing window or other bright indoor area, you can

### Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

grow many of the plants that Fred will be discussing quite easily (I grow all my catasetums and Mormodes in these conditions, potted in Osmunda fiber and watered a couple of times per week with tap water in the growing season).

Finally, be aware that city budget shortfalls may lead to us having to pay exorbitant fees for our meeting rooms, as the new proposed budget from the city manager outlines, so pay attention to local news and write your councilpeople; I'll include more about this in next month's newsletter.

-Christopher